Wednesday's Jackpot
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estimated
LOTTO 649

BURKA BAN
NO FACE-COVERING WHEN TAKING OATH OF CITIZENSHIP {page 14}

NASA TAKES TO AIRWAVES
STATION HOPES TO REACH YOUNGER AMERICANS
{page 10}

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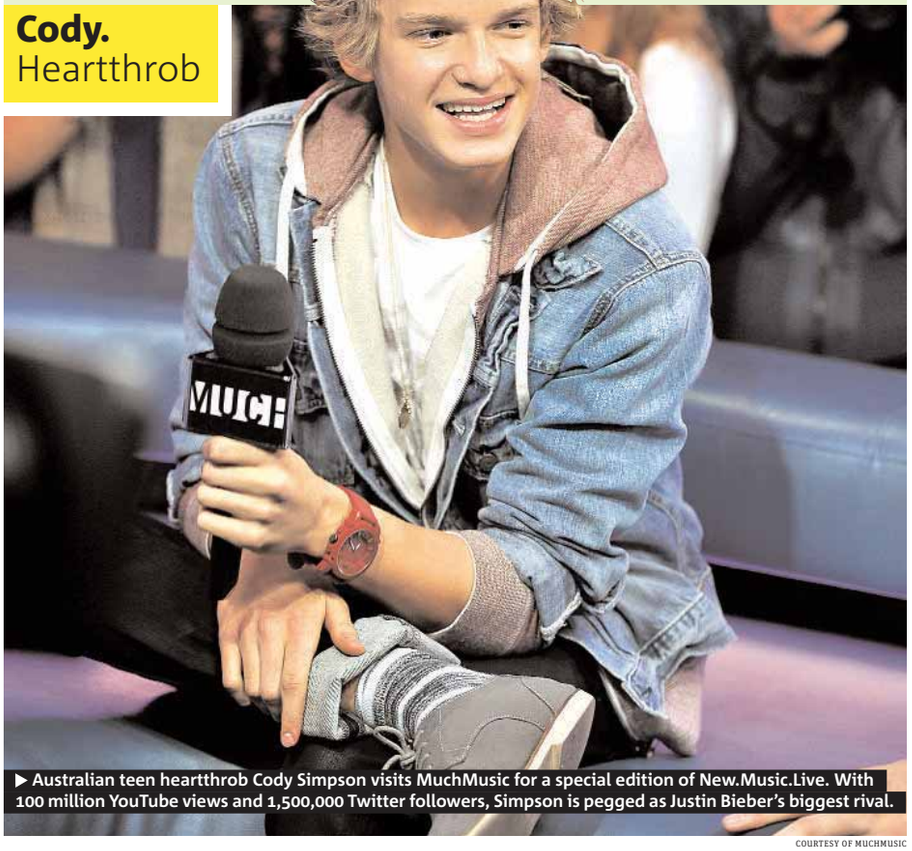
Cody.
Heartthrob



▶ Australian teen heartthrob Cody Simpson visits MuchMusic for a special edition of New.Music.Live. With 100 million YouTube views and 1,500,000 Twitter followers, Simpson is pegged as Justin Bieber's biggest rival.

COURTESY OF MUCHMUSIC

Australian teen sensation rocks Toronto

Throughout the hour, the 14-year-old performed hit songs from his EPs Coast To Coast and 4U, chatted with the NML hosts Liz Trinnear, Jesse Giddings and Phoebe Dykstra, and went outside to greet his fans and sign autographs.

Sex in the city — there has to be a better way

- Couple charged after having subway sex
- Transit rider captured video of lewd act

It gives a whole new meaning to riding the rocket.

A man and woman have been charged with engaging in a lewd act after a couple had sex on both a subway car and platform — in the middle of the afternoon.

The incident happened aboard a southbound train around 2:30 p.m. Sunday. A rider saw the couple — described as intoxicated and "old enough to know better" by TTC spokesman Brad Ross — having sex and activated the passenger assistance alarm, said Ross.

The train stopped and a TTC guard boarded and kicked the couple off at Spadina station.

But they clearly weren't satisfied and "continued on the platform," Ross said.

"Alcohol being a factor, they I guess decided they hadn't completed their journey and continued on the platform."
BRAD ROSS, TTC SPOKESMAN

A video apparently shot by a fellow passenger shows the train stopped as a man lies on top of a woman, moving rhythmically with his bare buttocks exposed. A TTC employee stands at a reasonable distance and appears to curse at the couple to stop.

The couple was charged and transported to hospital due to their inebriation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Actual Purchase: Necklace
Purity: 10 k Weight: 53.06 g
Total Payout: $970

Actual Purchase: Bracelet
Purity: 22 k Weight: 31.5 g
Total Payout: $1282.36

Actual Purchase: Necklace
Purity: 23 k Weight: 36.43 g
Total Payout: $1531.60

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Zale Canada Co.

Gay penguins go the way of Demi and Ashton

We know a lot of passionate relationships can end badly — but this fast?

A loveable same-sex pair of endangered African penguins at the Toronto Zoo, the ones with international profile and the high-octane genes, have been separated from each other by their handlers and paired up with females as part of a species survival program.

Buddy, 21, was paired with Farai, 3, and breeding activity was observed, the zoo said yesterday. Pedro, 10, was also introduced to females and has been seen "constantly" courting them, including Thandiwey, the one the zoo wants him to mate with.

Easy come, easy go, apparently.

The couples each have a nest spot consisting of a box lined with gravel and sterile, flexible tubing that can be used as twigs.

But fans worldwide who have been riveted by Buddy and Pedro's story will be saddened to hear the two recently got into a fight as they sat across from one another in their respective nests. It was mostly loud bawling, but there could have been serious injuries if not for a mesh between the nests. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ African penguins swim in their enclosure at the Toronto Zoo yesterday. It appears a female has come between one of Canada's celebrity couples.

Rallying for 'comfort women'

TDSB trustee to speak at the rally about the importance for students to learn about war victims in Asia

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic Secondary School students, from left, Simona Addario, 15, Nana Barimayena, 16, and Falan Bennett, 16, with history teacher Charles Leskun. They are part of a group going to rally outside the Japanese embassy in Ottawa to push the Japanese government to apologize for using women as sexual slaves during the Second World War.

Two weeks ago, Grade 11 student Falan Bennett had never heard of "comfort women," the cruel label Japanese soldiers used for the 200,000 young Asian girls they turned into sex slaves during the Second World War.

But a gritty history lesson last week at her Brampton high school has sparked an outrage the 16-year-old will take to Ottawa tomorrow on an unusual school trip to witness the largest peace-time protest ever held outside the Japanese embassy; a bid to pressure the Japanese government to apologize for its crimes against these women.

"They were kidnapped right off the street and raped up to 30 times a day and in most cases it ruined their lives," said Bennett.

Bennett is one of 130 students from Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic Secondary School who will join nearly 200 Toronto teachers, school trustees and social justice advocates — plus 100 more from Ottawa — to present a written request to the embassy. On the same day, some of the frail, remaining "comfort women" will make their 1,000th consecutive weekly appearance since 1992 outside the Japanese embassy in Seoul, South Korea, to demand the same apology from the Japanese government.

"It makes me want to go out into the world and educate others about rape as a weapon of war." **FALAN BENNETT, A GRADE 11 STUDENT**

"I would like to see them get an apology; it would at least comfort their soul," said Bennett's classmate Nana Barimayena, 16, a Grade 11 student who also will go to Ottawa.

The Canadian government urged Japan in 2007 to apologize for the practice. Numerous countries have also made the same request, but to date the Japanese government has not admitted to having ever set up the grisly "comfort station" shacks for Japanese soldiers to use near the front lines.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 news

Toddlers are likely to experience a reaction to the first shot of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, but serious reactions are rare. Scan the code for the story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

U.S. presidential hopeful Rick Perry's new campaign video has incited nearly 700 reply videos, many of which are parodies. Video at metronews.ca/video.

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POLICE HANDOUT

▶ Toronto police have released this photo of a man suspected of two sexual assaults on the TTC.

Groper fakes sleep: Cops

▶ Man wanted for two assaults on subway ▶ Woman's thighs touched

Toronto police have released a photo of a man suspected in two sexual assaults on the TTC.

Police say both assaults happened on subway cars on the Bloor–Danforth line. On both occasions, a man sat in an empty seat beside a woman pretending to sleep with his bag in his lap. He then allegedly grabbed them.

The first incident occurred on Oct. 4 around 9 p.m. on a westbound train. The second assault happened last Friday around 9 a.m. on an eastbound train.

The suspect is described as white, 35 years, five-foot-11 with a medium build and short black hair.

Police believe there may be more victims.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Park your excuses, officers have heard it all

"But — I had to use the washroom! Bad!" the SUV driver laments outside of Starbucks, his eyes searching for sympathy.

Enforcement officer Phil Heim shakes his head, handing the apologizer a $60 ticket for parking in a no-stopping zone. The man didn't help his case by leaving two babies in the back seat.

"An expensive bathroom break," said Heim. "And don't leave your kids in the car."

On this recent afternoon, Heim is walking the beat at Eglinton and Yonge streets. The mere sight of him sends people scrambling.

In a one-hour period, Heim writes about 10 tickets. And he's heard it all: I was just picking up someone. I was just about to get change. I was just leaving.

One time, a woman tried to tell Heim she had no choice — it was an emergency. She said there was a huge shoe sale at Bata Shoes and she didn't want to be last in line.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

By the numbers

- **2,787,071:** Parking tickets issued in 2010 through the city's police Parking Enforcement Unit and privately contracted enforcement officers.
- **16%:** Percentage of those tickets cancelled for a variety of reasons.
- **11,156:** Number of tickets dismissed or withdrawn, of the 268,170 tickets that went to trial in 2010.

Source: TPS Parking Enforcement Unit and City of Toronto 2010 Parking Ticket Activity fact sheet

Ombudsman reviewing CBC's Ford 911 stories

SCREENGRAB

▶ Mary Walsh ambushes Mayor Rob Ford.

The CBC's ombudsman is reviewing "CBC online, radio and television reports concerning 911 distress calls made by Toronto Mayor Rob Ford."

Kirk LaPointe quietly announced his look at the broadcaster's coverage of Ford's 911 calls at the end of a recent blog entry.

Around 8 a.m. on Oct. 24, Mary Walsh of CBC satire show 22 Minutes appeared in Ford's Etobicoke driveway as her character "Marg Delahunty," who, clad in warrior garb, ambushes politicians with jokes.

In a video later broadcast, Ford appeared to be smiling but refused to speak to her and retreated into his house, where he twice called 911 demanding police be dispatched to make Walsh and her camera operator leave.

Later that week, CBC cited anonymous police sources in reporting that Ford yelled at one dispatcher.

Ford vehemently denied that account, but the CBC says it stands behind the story.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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2012 FORTE SEDAN

Forte SX shown

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CITY: 8.1L/100KM

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Offer(s) available on all new 2011 and 2012 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by January 2, 2012. Dealers may sell for less. Some conditions apply. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers are subject to change and may be extended without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, PPSA, applicable taxes and variable dealer administration fees (up to $699). **0% purchase financing is available on all 2011 and 2012 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for details. Financing example based on 2012 Kia Sorento (SR75BC) with a selling price of $28,379, financed at 0% APR for 60 months. Monthly payments equal $472.98 with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $28,379. Delivery and destination fees ($1,650), other fees ($34), OMVIC fee. Environmental Fee and A/C tax (where applicable) are included. Licence, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699), PPSA and registration fees are extra. Financing example includes a $1,250 loan credit and $750 loyalty bonus*). Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ◆"Don't Pay Until Spring" on select models (120-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on select 2011 and 2012 models on approved credit (OAC) (Sportage/Sorento/Sedona/Borrego excluded). No interest will accrue during the first 90 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. ♦"Every eligible contestant automatically wins a prize of $500 up to $10,000 towards the purchase or lease of any new 2011 or 2012 Kia vehicle, plus one lucky winner will be randomly selected to win $25,000 at the conclusion of the contest. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's licence, who have reached the age of majority in the province of their residence. Odds of winning vary per prize. Potential prize recipients must correctly answer a skill-testing question. Other restrictions apply, please see your participating Kia dealer for complete contest rules. †FlexChoice Financing for 36-, 48- and 60-month terms on approved credit through TD Financing Services is available at participating dealerships to qualified retail customers on select new 2011 and 2012 Kia vehicles. Taxes on the full negotiated purchase price are payable at the beginning of the contract term, resulting in higher payments than payments taxed on a periodic basis, and are not reflected in advertised payments. The following terms apply to TD Financing Services contracts. Vehicles are financed over a term of up to 96 months and the pre-determined residual balance payable at the end of the contract. At contract's end, customers have the choice of: (i) returning their vehicle through a Kia dealership with no further obligations (except payment of a $199 return fee and excess wear and tear, mileage and similar charges if exceeding 24,000 km per year allowance); (ii) financing the remaining balance for the rest of the amortization period at then-current standard rates; or (iii) paying the residual balance indicated on the bill of sale in full. Some conditions apply, FlexChoice Financing offered by TD in Quebec is subject to different terms and conditions. All advertised FlexChoice Financing offers are TD offers. Delivery and destination fees (up to $1,650), other fees ($34), OMVIC fee. Environmental Fee and A/C tax (where applicable) are included. Taxes, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage, wear and tear charges, any retailer administration fees and other applicable fees are not included. FlexChoice Financing is provided on approved credit through TD Financing Services. Your Option Date is set out on your TD Financing Services Payment Advantage Loan Certificate (the "Certificate"), which contains the terms and conditions governing your Return Value Option. If you exercise your Return Value Option, a return fee of $199 must be paid by you (not applicable in the province of Quebec) and you will be responsible for excess kilometre charges, excess wear and tear, and any other amounts as specified in your Certificate. The remaining loan balance will be subject to then-applicable TD Financing Services rates and fees. Retailers may sell for less. See participating retailers for complete details. Representative example based on 2012 Forte Sedan base model (FE754QC) 2012 Soul (SE55QC) with a purchase price of $17,484/$18,279 financed at 3.39%/1.49% APR over 60/48 months with $0 down, bi-weekly payments of $99/$115 for a cost of borrowing of $1,811/$700 and a total obligation of $17,295/$17,979. Includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,650, other fees, OMVIC fee ($34). Environmental Fee and A/C tax (where applicable). 2012 Forte (FE754QC) includes $500 dealer contribution, $500 FlexChoice credit and $500 WINterfest Everybody Wins credit. Certain restrictions apply. 2012 Soul (SE55QC) includes $500 FlexChoice credit and $500 WINterfest Everybody Wins credit. Taxes, PPSA, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage, wear and tear charges, any administration or other applicable fees or charges are not included. Dealer may sell for less. See dealer for details. ‡Loan credit (cash savings) for 2012 Kia Sorento LX AT (SR75BC)/2012 Rondo (RN75C) is $1,250 (includes $500 loan credit and $750 loyalty bonus*)/$1,000 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan credit varies by model and trim. *Loyalty Bonus offer available on 2012 Kia Sorento at a value of $750 for any current Kia owners towards the purchase or lease of a new 2012MY Sorento. Loyalty Bonus offer applicable to cash purchase, lease and purchase financing only before January 3, 2012. Offer is transferable within same household only (must provide proof of address). Limit of one bonus per customer or household. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. ^Highway/city fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Some conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate Program and $750 Kia Mobility Program. See dealer for details. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia Canada is the official automotive sponsor of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada). KIA and FlexChoice are trademarks of Kia Motors Corporation.

Agent sues client after sour real estate deal

- Homeowner never serious about moving, lawsuit said
- Claimed $3,340 for expenses including staging costs

A Toronto man is reeling after his real estate agent sued him when he pulled his house off the market. It's a modern day real estate cautionary tale with the usual lesson — get everything in writing.

Including who pays for the staging of a house that never winds up being sold.

Dan Turcotte says selling his home for the price being offered would have meant taking a $50,000 loss. So he wanted the chance to talk to a bank to see if he could afford to live there by himself after a breakup with his then-fiancée, a co-owner of the home.

The agent, Elaine Kehoe, countered in her suit that the homeowners were never serious about selling, and had agreed to pay the costs of "staging" the house — making it look better for potential buyers by renting furniture, painting and otherwise beautifying it. She sued for $3,340, including staging costs and other expenses.

"It's definitely unusual ... She must have felt they were acting in bad faith, and she was being taken advantage of."
VETERAN REAL ESTATE LAWYER MARK WEISLEDER, WHO WASN'T PART OF THE CASE

"I couldn't believe that an agent would sue their own client because they wouldn't sell their house at a loss," said Turcotte, who settled the suit this week for $1,600. He settled, he says, because going to trial in small claims court would have cost him thousands more in legal fees.

Kehoe's suit says she suspected from the start that Turcotte and his fiancée, from whom he has since separated, weren't really serious about selling.

"The plaintiff was apprehensive that the defendants were listing the property in order to determine its market value rather than to actually sell it," the suit claimed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pizza. Party

▶ "My pizza needs a tow truck," says seven-year-old Jakob McMillia, making Pat Finelli, Pizza Pizza's chief marketing officer, laugh during a pizza party at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton yesterday.

SUBMITTED

Record fundraiser for Slices for Smiles

Pizza Pizza wrapped up its fundraising through its Slices for Smiles Foundation with the pizza party at the McMaster Children's Hospital. During the event, the company presented a cheque for $250,000 to Children's Miracle Network, setting a new record for the annual fundraiser.

Man accused in car crash death faces 9 charges

Darren Millett limped out of a Brampton courthouse yesterday morning with his head down and tears in his eyes. The 20-year-old faces nine charges, including impaired driving and criminal negligence causing death, after a weekend collision in Mississauga left a 40-year-old Algerian man dead, his two-year-old son in hospital and his wife devastated.

Millett, who appeared to have family and friends in court, returned to hospital in police custody until Dec. 21 for his bail hearing, which may be changed as lawyers meet in court today to discuss an earlier date.

Police say Millett was intoxicated as he sped westbound from a Queen Elizabeth Way off-ramp around 3:30 a.m. Sunday with three passengers in a black, four-door Dodge Caliber.

Mounir Mahious, with his wife and two-year-old son, was driving southbound on Cawthra Road when, according to police, the hatchback smashed into the driver's side of Mahious's Kia Rio. The force of the collision ejected Mahious and his son, Djibril, from the car, even though both were buckled in. The Caliber came to rest hundreds of feet away, flipped on its roof.

"The collision was so violent that it may have shredded their seatbelts," said Const. Marlon Colthrust, of Peel police. "But the collision reconstruction team is continuing their investigation."

FACEBOOK.COM

▶ Darren Millett

His son remains in serious but stable condition at the Hospital for Sick Children with his mother, who suffered minor injuries, by his side. Two passengers in the black hatchback that collided with the family's car — one male and one female — were also sent to hospital with broken bones and other injuries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mahious's past

- Mounir Mahious grew up in Jijel, a coastal town in Algeria on the Mediterranean Sea, according to his best friend, Smain Hammadou.
- He came to Canada in March 2008 for love. Mahious met Beky, a Cameroonian living in Canada, online. They married soon after and had a son together, Djibril, Hammadou said.

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2810 Major Mackenzie Dr.

MARKHAM
7357 Woodbine Ave.
Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall

MILTON
377 Main St. E.

MISSISSAUGA
6965 Davand Dr.
980 Eglinton Ave. E.
Dixie Value Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Power Centre
Sheridan Centre
Square One Shopping Centre
Square One Shopping Centre (kiosk)
Westgate SmartCentres

NEWMARKET
Upper Canada Mall

NORTH YORK
1635 Lawrence Ave.W.
170 Rimrock Rd.
Bayview Village
Centerpoint Mall
Crossroads Plaza
Empress Walk
Lawrence Square
North York Sheridan Mall
Sheppard Centre
Yorkgate Mall

OAKVILLE
Hampshire Gate at Dundas
Oakville Place

ORANGEVILLE
114 Broadway Ave.

OSHAWA
Five Points Mall
Oshawa Centre

PICKERING
Pickering Town Centre

RICHMOND HILL
Hillcrest Mall
Richmond Heights Plaza
Time Square Shopping Centre

SCARBOROUGH
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Cedarbrae Mall (kiosk)
Malvern Town Centre
Parkway Mall
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Southridge Mall

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2081 Steeles Avenue W.
2323 Yonge St.
Chinatown Centre
College Park
Dufferin Mall
East York Town Centre
Eaton Centre
Eaton Centre II
Eglinton Square
Gerrard Square
Holt Renfrew Centre
Royal Bank Plaza
Scotia Plaza
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Shops at Don Mills
Yorkdale Shopping Centre (kiosk)

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Vaughan Mills
Vaughan Mills (kiosk)

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Canada makes it official: We're out of Kyoto

Sayonara, Kyoto.

The Conservative government has pulled Canada out of the world's only binding climate treaty.

"We are invoking Canada's legal right to formally withdraw from Kyoto," Environment Minister Peter Kent said yesterday outside the House of Commons.

"This decision formalizes what we've said since 2006, that we will not implement the Kyoto Protocol."

Kent was barely two hours back from marathon United Nations climate talks in the South African port city of Durban when he made the announcement.

But the move was a long time coming.

Canada signed Kyoto in the late 1990s, but neither the current Conservative government nor their Liberal predecessors met targets.

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Peter Kent

The Tories have always insisted that meeting Canada's Kyoto commitments would tank the economy. They have instead set a less stringent goal to lower greenhouse gases that is in line with the United States.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Peter Kent's take

1. Environment Minister Peter Kent told reporters last week that he promised the UN's chief negotiator there would be no "unfortunate surprises" during the Durban talks. Many interpreted that comment as a sign Canada would wait until after Durban to dump Kyoto.
2. Kent said Canada will now look ahead to a new global deal that forces all countries to lower greenhouse-gas emissions. Getting the world's two biggest polluters — the United States and China — to agree to binding targets will make or break any future climate deal.

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Former Tory MP Rahim Jaffer, right, and his business partner Patrick Glemaud prepare to testify at the Commons government operations and estimates committee on Parliament Hill in Ottawa in this April 2010 photo.

Ex-Tory MP broke the rules: Watchdog

Official says Rahim Jaffer and business partner didn't register as lobbyists before looking for federal cash

Rahim Jaffer's attempt to build a post-MP business with a local lawyer friend might not have been lucrative but the pair still should have registered as lobbyists, says a parliamentary watchdog.

Commissioner of Lobbying Karen Shepherd said Tuesday the ex-Conservative MP and his former business partner Patrick Glemaud breached the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct in five different ways.

The main violation was that they did not register as lobbyists before they approached a host of government officials and political staffers about trying to shake loose federal cash for prospective clients.

"They were clearly employed by a company which was in the business of making money. They were the only two employees, so they had an expectation of benefiting in the future," Shepherd said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Influence

- **Headlines.** Allegations of whether, at worst, Rahim Jaffer was trying to peddle influence, or at the very least, trying to lobby without registration, emerged in April 2010 when his relationship with a controversial Toronto businessman made the headlines.
- **Open doors.** That associate, Nazim Gillani, had bragged to friends that Jaffer could open doors in Ottawa for him and other potential clients.
- **Projects.** Jaffer and his former business partner Patrick Glemaud had started up a consulting business called Green Power Generation Corp., which among other things was trying to secure investment and federal grants for prospective clients that had renewable energy projects.

Charges laid in BB gun attack

Police say a 42-year-old man faces charges after a woman and her daughter were attacked with a BB gun in Barrie.

Investigators say the dispute between the man, his ex-girlfriend and her daughter started Sunday night when the man became agitated by a pet dog and started scaring the animal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec may take feds to court

The long, bitter battle over the federal long-gun registry appears headed for the courtroom.

Quebec is set to announce it will take legal action against the federal government as it fights to save data from the soon-to-be-abolished registry.

Quebec's public security minister, Robert Dutil, will reveal details of a legal suit today. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP critical of report on women

A new House of Commons committee report meant to address the crisis of violence against aboriginal women ignores the testimony of most of the women it consulted, NDP members say.

More than one in 10 aboriginal women reported being the victim of a violent crime in 2009, says Statistics Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Trucker jailed for burning fiancée's body

A former truck driver has been sentenced to six years for burning a woman's body after police say she suffocated as they celebrated their engagement with a meth and bondage sex party. Mark Andrew Rice told police that he tied up Natasha Carpenter in 2009 in California, stuffed a gag in her mouth and covered it with tape. He passed out after and woke up to find her dead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New space station rocks airwaves

SCREEN GRAB

▶ A screengrab of NASA's radio station, Third Rock Radio.

NASA's Third Rock Radio mixes music with science

NASA has boldly gone to a place where no astronaut has gone before: The radio music industry.

The American space organization has partnered with a Houston-based media company to launch an online new rock/indie/alternative music station called Third Rock Radio aimed at the "tech-savvy young adults." The name is a play on the location of the Earth (third planet from the sun).

The station, which launched today, is available online through the NASA website or directly at Third Rock Radio.

The website tag says it all: "It's radio powered with NASA — a blend of art and science built to put you light years ahead with the best new music out there … really out there."

Pat Fant, RFC Media co-founder and chief operating officer, was driving down Nasa Road One past the Johnson Space Center about a year and a half ago when he got the idea. "I wonder if NASA could benefit from reaching younger Americans in a context that does not sound educational?" he asked himself. His company makes private online radio stations for businesses. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports owner taking on Putin

YURI KADOBNOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mikhail Prokhorov.

Mikhail Prokhorov, one of Russia's richest tycoons and the owner of the New Jersey Nets basketball team, said yesterday he will run against Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in the March presidential election.

Prokhorov has been cautious not to cross Putin's path in the past, but the billionaire may pose a serious challenge to Putin, whose authority has been dented by alleged widespread fraud during Russia's Dec. 4 parliamentary election.

Putin's party only won about 50 per cent of that vote, compared to 64 per cent four years ago, and the fraud allegations have allowed opposition parties to successfully mount massive anti-Putin protests in Russia.

On Sunday, President Dmitry Medvedev promised on his Facebook page that the alleged vote fraud will be investigated. But Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, predicted yesterday the probe will show that little vote fraud occurred and that it had no effect on the outcome of the ballot.

"If you take all the cases of these alleged violations or whatever was published online, the total will be less than 1 per cent of the overall number of votes," Peskov told The Associated Press in an interview. "And even hypothetically speaking, if they are all appealed in court, it will in no way affect the legitimacy of the election."

Peskov's comment signalled that Putin is holding firm, despite the protests, which have been the largest here since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. requests drone from Iran

CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama is pressing his request that Iran return the U.S. surveillance drone captured by the country's armed forces.

Obama said he would not comment "on intelligence matters that are classified." But he said during a White House news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki that the U.S. wants the top-secret aircraft back.

"We have asked for it back. We'll see how the Iranians respond."
U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi Arabia executes woman

Saudi authorities have executed a woman convicted of practising magic and sorcery. The Saudi Interior Ministry says in a statement the execution took place yesterday.

The London-based al-Hayat daily quoted Abdullah al-Mohsen, chief of religious police who arrested her, as saying she had tricked people into thinking she could treat illnesses, charging them $800 per session. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrians go on strike

- Protesters target ailing economy, regime supporters
- Government pushes ahead with municipal elections

UGARIT NEWS GROUP VIA APTN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This image from amateur video made available by the Ugarit News group yesterday purports to show security forces in Daraa, Syria.

Syrians closed their businesses and kept children home from school yesterday as part of a general strike, a powerful show of civil disobedience to pressure President Bashar al-Assad to end his nine-month-old crackdown on a popular uprising.

The open-ended strike takes direct aim at the country's already ailing economy. It is designed to erode al-Assad's main base of support — the new and vibrant merchant classes who have benefited in recent years as the president opened up the economy.

If the economy continues to collapse, al-Assad could find himself with few allies inside the country, where calls are growing by the day for him to step down. The authoritarian president is already struggling under international isolation and suffocating sanctions.

It is difficult to gauge the strength of the strike because the regime has banned most foreign journalists and prevented local reporters from moving freely. But there were signs it was being widely observed in particular in centres of anti-government protest: The southern province of Daraa, the suburbs of the capital, Damascus, the northwestern region of Idlib and in the restive city of Homs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clashes continue

- Activists said a new round of clashes between Syrian troops and army defectors began on Sunday with a major battle in the south and spread to new areas yesterday, raising fears the conflict is spiralling toward civil war.
- The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says new clashes between soldiers and defectors were reported yesterday in Idlib in the north, and that fighting continued for a second day in southern Daraa province. Four members of the security forces were killed as a result of the clashes there, the Observatory said.
- At least 16 people were reported killed nationwide yesterday, most of them in Homs, according to various activist networks.

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No burka during citizenship oath

It's a legal matter: Immigration minister Oath-takers must show entire face Rule takes effect immediately

Prospective Canadians are no longer allowed to wear veils while they utter the oath of citizenship, the federal government announced yesterday.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney told a news conference in Montreal that new Canadians will have to remove any face-coverings, such as the Islamic niqab or burka, while they swear the oath of citizenship. The new rule, which requires oath-takers to show their entire face, takes effect immediately.

Kenney said it's not only a question of "deep principle" for someone to show their face while taking the oath in front of their fellow citizens; it's also a matter of legal concern.

"I don't know how we can verify that someone whose face is covered is actually taking the oath that the law requires of them," Kenney said.

"This is a public act of witness in front of your fellow citizens, in front of the law — and you should be willing to show who you are."

Kenney said he received complaints from citizens, MPs and citizenship judges to the effect that it's difficult to ensure individuals whose faces are covered are actually taking the oath.

He said those concerns prompted him to raise the issue during a recent meeting of citizenship judges in Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heated debate

- The location of the announcement was not without symbolism. Quebec has had heated debates in recent years over so-called "reasonable accommodation" — how much should Canada bend to accommodate newcomers.
- While in the rest of Canada, it's often raised by conservatives, in Quebec the issue is frequently raised by the left-leaning and nationalist Parti Québecois.

France. Election

▶ France's would-be presidential candidate Kenza Drider, who wears a face-covering veil, presents her manifesto at an improvised press conference in front of a Paris courthouse.

FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Her presidential manifesto

Kenza Drider rattled off 30 mostly left-leaning proposals — including capping salaries and devaluing the euro — as well as her main cause, repealing the ban on wearing face-concealing niqabs in public.

Chain sticks to decision to pull ads

Lowe's is planning to stick by its decision to yank its ads from a reality TV show about American Muslims despite growing opposition the home improvement chain is facing.

Lowe's stopped running commercials during All-American Muslim after a conservative group emailed advertisers to ask them to stop advertising on the show. The group said the program, which follows the lives of Muslim families living in the Metro Detroit area, was "propaganda that riskily hides the Islamic agenda's clear and present danger." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9,200 On Twitter, actor Kal Penn began directing people to a petition in support of the show. By yesterday afternoon, there were about 9,200 signatures.

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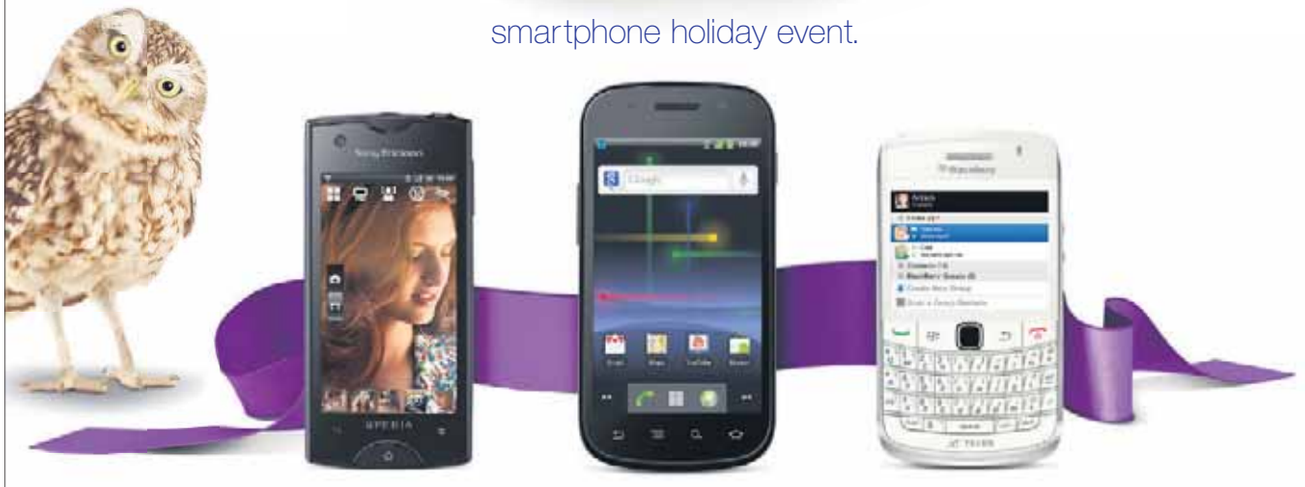

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Ports latest sites of Occupy storm

RICK BOWMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A truck turns away from protesters who set up a picket line at a Port of Portland terminal yesterday in Portland as part of a West Coast "day of action."

Blockades at busiest waterfronts target economic elite

Anti-Wall Street protesters tried to shut down ports along the U.S. West Coast yesterday, saying that if they cut off some of the country's busiest access points, they cut into corporate profits.

The "Wall Street on the waterfront" is perhaps the Occupy movement's most dramatic gesture since raids in several cities sent most remaining protest camps scattering. Demonstrators began forming the camps about two months ago to protest what they call economic inequality between the richest one per cent of Americans and the other 99 per cent, whom they claim to represent.

The protesters say American ports have become "economic engines for the elite." They are most upset by giant West Coast port operator SSA Marine and grain exporter EGT, which they say epitomize the big corporations.

In Vancouver, about two dozen protesters also set up brief blockades at entrances to the port, proclaiming solidarity with longshore employees.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Eichmann artifacts on display for first time

Fifty years after Holocaust mastermind Adolf Eichmann was convicted in an epic trial that helped shape Israel's national psyche, the Israeli parliament yesterday put on display for the first time dozens of artifacts from the daring 1960 operation in Argentina that captured the Nazi criminal.

Known as the "architect of the Holocaust" for his role in co-ordinating the Nazi genocide policy, Eichmann fled to Argentina where he was hunted down and captured by Israeli Mossad agents. Eichmann was hanged after his 1961 trial in Jerusalem.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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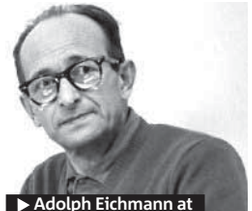

▶ Adolph Eichmann at Galami Prison, Israel, 1960.

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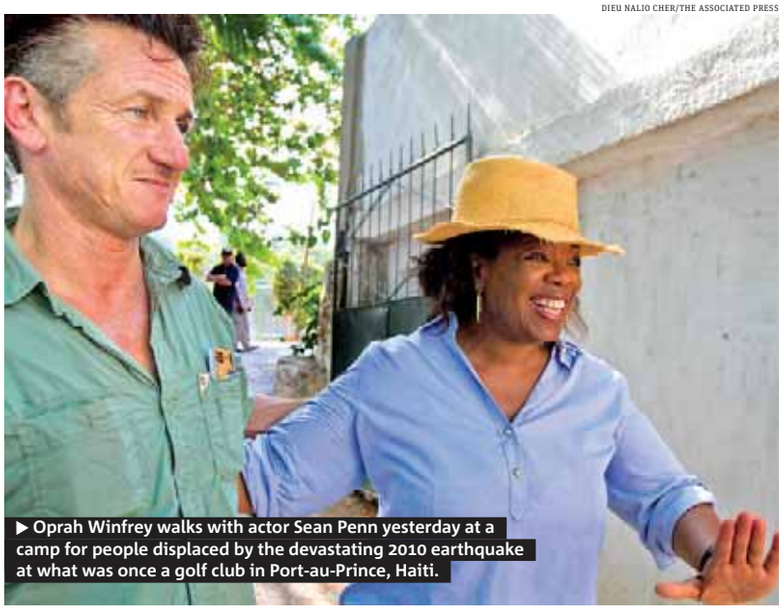

▶ Oprah Winfrey walks with actor Sean Penn yesterday at a camp for people displaced by the devastating 2010 earthquake at what was once a golf club in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Oprah visits Haiti under tight security

Winfrey came to Haiti on Sunday Police cleared the airport so journalists could not film her arrival

Oprah Winfrey toured an encampment for Haitians displaced by a massive 2010 earthquake under tight security yesterday, with a local photographer detained for about 90 minutes as he tried to cover the event.

Winfrey, escorted by security guards, walked among the tents with actor Sean Penn, who helped create an aid group that provides support to people who live in the encampment.

Winfrey said Penn's efforts will be featured in an upcoming program on her Oprah Winfrey Network.

"Everybody who has spent time in Haiti knows how important it is for the world to see what is going on here... We really appreciate that she (Oprah) is here with us."
ACTOR SEAN PENN

"This is part of the next chapter, going around the world to see interesting and fascinating cases of profound examples of what can be done to make a difference in the world," Winfrey told reporters at the encampment.

Penn said he welcomed the interest of "the world's most elegant woman" and expected it would help Haiti. The camp where his group works was built on a former country club golf course and has been home to thousands of people since the earthquake left much of the Haitian capital in ruins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ZEALAND

Car to be crushed for street racing

A New Zealand teenager is set to become the first to have his car seized and crushed under the country's tough illegal street racing legislation.

The Vehicle Confiscation and Seizure Bill allows the state to seize and destroy a vehicle after the third illegal street racing offence.

The teen, 18 year-old Karn Clarrie Forrest, was sentenced yesterday on charges of driving while disqualified and driving a vehicle with a "sustained loss of traction" (a.k.a. doing doughnuts) according to a report in the New Zealand Herald.

Forrest was sentenced to 150 hours of community work and was disqualified from driving for 13 months. The court ordered that his car be confiscated and destroyed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fish program a failure, EU official says

The European Union's audit office said yesterday that a $2.25 billion US program to combat fish stock depletion through fleet reduction has been a failure.

EU Fisheries Commissioner Maria Damanaki promised to revamp the policy under which almost 90 per cent of fish stocks, such as cod and bluefin tuna, are overfished.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Food prices to cool: Study

2012 Food Price Index estimates a rise of about two per cent at most

A new study says Canadians may find some reprieve at the supermarket cash register next year.

In a report released yesterday, two University of Guelph professors say prices for food will inch ahead by less than the current inflation rate.

Food prices have been on the upswing in recent years as raw-material prices surge, affected by soaring costs for fuel used to transport goods.

Some of those higher expenses have been incorporated into the price consumers pay, but grocers like Loblaws, Metro and Sobeys have lessened the impact with price wars against each other and Walmart.

The study also credited the arrival of U.S. retailer Target in Canada next year as another factor that will help keep food prices lower and competition alive.

Canadians are also expected to maintain their cost-efficient practices as they selectively purchase foods and tighten spending on premium food products such as organically grown and fair trade.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ People shop at the Loblaws store in the former Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto. A new study suggests prices for food will inch ahead by less than the current inflation rate.

Going up

- **Meat products** will jump about three per cent, compared to a rise of about five per cent in 2011,
- **Fresh vegetables** will go up one to three per cent in 2012, versus a jump of 10 per cent this year.
- **Baked goods'** prices are expected to rise three per cent, from seven per cent this year.

Province has shortest wait time for surgery

The Fraser Institute, in a report released yesterday, says the wait time between referral by a general practitioner and receiving treatment is 14.3 weeks in Ontario. But that's up from 14 weeks in 2010.

Ontario had the shortest wait times between referral by a general practitioner and consultation with a specialist at 7.2 weeks, and between specialist consultation and treatment at 7.1 weeks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TULSA POLICE HANDOUT

▶ Alisha Halfmoon, 45, is in custody in Tulsa, Okla., on a $100,000 bond after she was arrested at a Wall-Mart store.

Meth lab in Wal-Mart

Small 'one-pot' operations plaguing Oklahoma, police chief says

Even for south Tulsa, with 400 crystal meth labs and counting this year, stirring up a batch on a Wal-Mart shelf in the middle of Christmas shopping was a new low.

"This one was surprising, even for us," Tulsa police spokesman Officer Jason Willingham told the Toronto Star yesterday.

"She was mixing it right there on a shelf."

The off-the-shelf operation involved lithium and drain cleaner taken from Wal-Mart shelves and mixed together over a period of six hours.

It's the third meth lab incident around the discount store in recent months.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Santa' drugs teen at Berlin market

A man dressed as Santa drugged a 15-year-old girl at a Berlin Christmas market over the weekend — the latest such attack that has seen people left either sickened or unconscious, police said yesterday.

At about 10 p.m. Saturday the suspect approached the girl and her friend at Berlin's downtown Alexanderplatz Christmas market, offering both of them what he said was a shot of alcohol in a paper cup, police said.

One girl refused, but the other girl drank both of the shots. She soon started vomiting and had to be taken to the hospital, where she underwent a blood test, before being released.

Police said it appeared she had been slipped some type of a date rape drug, but released no further details, citing the ongoing investigation.

Eight other people at various Berlin Christmas markets have fallen prey to similar attacks — usually with an unidentified man in regular clothes handing out single-shot bottles of alcohol, asking people to join him in celebrating the birth of his child.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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BLACKBERRY SERVICE

Indonesia demands local data centre

Indonesia's telecommunications regulator is demanding Research in Motion build a local data centre if it wants to continue doing business in that country.

The Waterloo-based company stated Saturday it has already complied with demands issued by Indonesia's Ministry of Communication and Information Technology in January.

This included setting up more than 50 BlackBerry Expert Centres in the country, filtering content and releasing customer data to law enforcement agencies.

Currently, all data from BlackBerry Messenger and BlackBerry Internet Service in Indonesia travels to servers in Canada.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Campaign rolls the dice

An annual holiday campaign is urging gift-givers to nix lottery tickets and scratch cards as holiday presents for minors.

The initiative is part of a collaborative partnership between McGill University's International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors and the National Council on Problem Gambling.

The campaign marks the fourth year the Montreal-based centre and Washington, D.C.-based council have teamed up with lotteries worldwide to advocate against the purchase of lottery tickets as gifts for kids.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Markets lose confidence

Italy's borrowing rates rise as fears grow about its financial future

MICHEL EULER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Stock traders check out U.S. interest rates in Paris yesterday. Enthusiasm for riskier assets, such as stocks and the euro, faded as investors worried that Europe's new pact would be insufficient to fix the debt crisis

British Prime Minister David Cameron warned that Europe's new fiscal pact, aimed at fixing the euro, faces significant political hurdles, while investors and ratings agencies said the deal was insufficient to fix the continent's debt problems.

Cameron, who was the only leader among the 27 European Union members to refuse last week to consider a plan to tighten budget controls, warned the deal could clash with existing EU rules and that it could take months of negotiations to sort the conflicts.

As the political rift between Britain and euro countries created uncertainty about the deal's implementation, ratings agencies Moody's and Fitch warned it did not even properly address the problem of lowering existing debt.

"I think we are going to see now, frankly, a period of great change in Europe. No one quite knows where this new organization ... will go, and what powers it will seek."

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER DAVID CAMERON

Stocks and the euro fell sharply as market confidence in the plan — and Europe's ability to end the crisis — ebbed. Italy's government, whose borrowing rates jumped higher yesterday, faced days of union strikes and protests.

The U.K.'s refusal of the new European fiscal pact threatens to leave Britain isolated on the fringes of the EU, while the 17 countries that use the euro currency — and almost all their neighbours — agree to consider a new pact to enforce deeper political and fiscal bonds.

Britain's government is worried that the new European pact would overlap with the existing EU treaty. In particular, Cameron's office said it was not clear how EU institutions, such as the European Commission, the EU's executive based in Brussels, could be used under two different, possibly competing, regimes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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GLOBAL ECONOMY

Canadian businesses can prosper amid debt

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney says the advanced economies of the world are facing a massive challenge with debt, but Canada may be in a position to take advantage.

▶ Mark Carney

To a business group in Toronto, the central banker warned yesterday that a historic era of deleveraging — paying off debt — is being forced upon European countries and the U.S.

The task is so large that Carney compares it to what occurred during the Great Depression of the 1930s, and is by no means assured to go smoothly. "As a result of deleveraging, the global economy risks entering a prolonged period of deficient demand," Carney said.

"If mishandled, it could lead to debt deflation and disorderly defaults, potentially triggering large transfers of wealth and social unrest."

Carney said that Canada's relative virtue throughout this era of deleveraging puts the country in a "privileged position."

"We have much lower total government debt in Canada, our firms' balance sheets are actually in very good shape, our banking system is very strong," he told reporters.

"Our strong position gives us a window of opportunity to make the adjustments needed to continue to prosper in a deleveraging world. But opportunities are only valuable if seized."

Carney said Canadian companies in particular must seize the moment, before it disappears.

Businesses can benefit from one of the world's soundest banking systems in Canada, superlow interest rates and their own sound balance sheets flush with cash.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas	Gold
- 126.86 (11,907.89)	- $0.71¢ ($97.48¢ US)	- $1.64 US ($97.77 US)	$3.254 US (- 6.3¢ US)	$1,668.20 US (- 48.6 US)

Women the head of gift buying in family: Poll

- 80 per cent of households polled say women do the holiday shopping
- 43 per cent of women shop online, up from 34 per cent last year

Santa is a woman.

That's according to BMO's 2011 Holiday Spending Outlook.

BMO says 80 per cent of households polled said the female head of family will do the majority of holiday shopping, and this year, more and more will do it online.

BMO's annual survey revealed a substantial increase in the number of women using the Internet to shop for gifts. The figure jumped to 43 per cent from 34 per cent last year. At 49 per cent, men are still somewhat more inclined than women to shop online — but the gap is narrowing.

The survey polled 1,508 Canadians and is considered accurate within plus or minus 2.5 per cent 19 times out of 20.

"There are a number of factors behind the increase in online shopping among Canadian women," said Su McVey, vice-president of BMO Bank of Montreal.

"The ability to quickly and easily research products and compare prices and even arrange for delivery at the click of a mouse or the touch of a key pad makes it a remarkably convenient approach for busy, budget-conscious and multi-tasking women," McVey said.

HYOSUB SHIN/THE ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Women shop at a Toys R Us in Atlanta, Ga., last month.

McVey noted that advances in technology such as Wi-Fi, smartphones and e-readers have helped spur this growth.

"People of all ages are becoming much more comfortable with the technology and with the security behind online shopping," said McVey.

Regionally, married people polled in Atlantic Canada were more likely to say the female head of household does the majority of shopping — 87 per cent.

Online shoppers who don't want to pay priority shipping fees should make their online purchases by or before Dec. 15, BMO said.

That's the date when most retailers, especially those offering free delivery, require your order if you want a guarantee that Santa's packages will arrive by Dec. 24.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bell Mobility in hot seat over sports rights

The national telecommunications regulator is putting Bell Mobility in the penalty box for securing exclusive rights to hockey and football content for mobile devices.

The wireless phone company gave itself a significant competitive advantage by signing deals with the National Hockey League and National Football League, the CRTC ruled yesterday.

"Canadians shouldn't be forced to subscribe to a wireless service from a specific company to access their favourite content," Konrad von Finckenstein, chairman of the CRTC, said in a statement.

The decision followed a complaint from Telus Communications last January after it failed to secure the rights, first from the two sports leagues and later from Bell.

The NHL content includes games and video highlights, while the NFL content includes primetime games and playoff games.

Telus argued that the exclusivity of Bell's deal had a negative impact on Telus's ability to compete in both the broadcasting distribution and wireless markets.

Bell's position was that Telus could still broadcast content not covered by those deals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

Airline sued for charging the disabled

LAWSUIT. Disabled travellers who had to pay extra for seats on Air Canada could be in line for compensation as part of a class-action lawsuit authorized in Quebec.

A judge has approved a suit against Air Canada on behalf of disabled Canadians who had to pay extra for seats over a three-year period from Dec. 5, 2005 to Dec. 5, 2008.

The suit covers disabled individuals and also those with a functional disability related to obesity who faced extra charges for seats adapted to their condition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Messages not deleted: Lawyer

PHONE HACKING. A private investigator working for Rupert Murdoch's News of the World tabloid did not delete voicemails from the phone of a missing girl, a police lawyer told Britain's media ethics inquiry yesterday. The claim that the tabloid not only listened to but interfered with messages left for 13-year-old Milly Dowler in 2002 triggered a furor about media malpractice that shook Murdoch's media empire.

"The most likely suggestion is that existing messages automatically dropped off after 72 hours," lawyer Neil Garnham said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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GETTING ALL WRAPPED UP IN THE HOLIDAYS

SHE SAYS ...

JESSICA NAPIER
METRO

For couples who intend to spend the holidays together, 'tis the season for family feuds and hurt feelings.

December is arguably the busiest time of the year, so when you move from being an "I" to a "we," this already-overscheduled month becomes even more complicated. With emotions running high, there can be all sorts of issues attached to deciding where and with whom to spend your yuletide time.

Do we commit to one set of parents? Divide our time between each other's family get-togethers? Try blending our families into one big (and potentially disastrous) celebration? Or do we split up and spend the holidays apart?

With all of the parental pressures and guilt-tripping the season brings, sometimes the most desirable course of action is to ditch everyone and spend December 25th alone together, eating Chinese food and watching a movie.

Married couples and those in long-term relationships can easily burn themselves out trying to fulfil calendars full of family commitments. Forget your holiday wish list, all you really want for Christmas is some extra time, or perhaps a couple of clones.

"...the turkey will never taste quite the same, and this other family's drunken uncle will seem terribly racist — on the other hand, your sloshed-by-noon-uncle is 'endearing.' "

The unfortunate reality for adult children is that you will never really be able to please the numerous sets of parents, step-parents, in-laws and extended family members. In striving to meet everyone's expectations you'll stress yourself out and turn into an argumentative and unpleasant grinch.

But, hey, isn't that what the holidays are all about?

Deciding how you'll celebrate the season will ultimately depend on a variety of factors — religious beliefs, geography, work commitments, money — but if you want to spend the holidays with your significant other, you'll have to make some compromises.

It's more than likely that at some point in your life you'll have to spend the holidays with a family that isn't your own. Yes, unfamiliar familial surroundings can be difficult: The turkey will never taste quite the same, and this other family's drunken uncle will seem terribly racist — on the other hand, your sloshed-by-noon-uncle is "endearing." They'll want to watch A Christmas Story even though you ALWAYS watch It's a Wonderful Life, and you'll be irrationally devastated.

Since every family has their own unique festive customs, you'll have to adjust your own expectations if you want to get through the holidays without weeping into your eggnog. But in letting go of some of your established traditions, you'll give yourself the opportunity to start making some new ones. And remember, it's actually a nice thing when too many people want to spend time with you.

Read more of Jessica Napier's columns at metronews.ca/shesays

Metropolitan Panel

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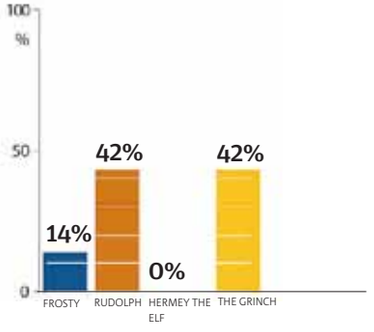
Who would win in a holiday cartoon showdown?



Local tweets

- **@TsarKasim:** Dang it, these #TTC #RideTheRocket jokes write themselves.
- **@donaldblair:** And frankly, not that I object to sudden expressions of love, doing it on the floor of a subway platform is really kind of gross. #ttc
- **@annakgustafson:** I guess, Canada, like other withdrawal methods, we'll have a few months at least to think up a good excuse for why we did it. #fb #Kyoto
- **@EGuerbilsky:** Conservatives pull Canada out of the #Kyoto protocol #SHAME !!! #NDP #cdnpoli
- **@scout_cat:** once again showing how progressive a nation we are, canada withdraws from kyoto. more tar sands, yeah!
- **@donaldblair:** #kyoto had the best intentions but would have killed the CDN economy. Congrats to Peter Kent for finally putting the kybosh on it. #cdnpoli
- **@philcutter:** The Harper gov't has destroyed Canada's int'l standing by pulling out of Kyoto. We should all feel ashamed. #cdnpoli

Daily Zoom

LEE GRISMER/WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oh, hello, gecko — nice to meet you

New creature found in Mekong every 2 days!

This psychedelic gecko is one of the latest species discovered on Hon Khoai island, Mau province, in southern Vietnam.

The gecko is among 208 new species described last year by scientists in the Mekong River region of Southeast Asia, according to the WWF.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mekong River

- The region spans Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan. The report reveals an average of one new species discovered every two days.
- 28 reptiles were newly discovered in 2010, including an all-female lizard in Vietnam that reproduces via cloning.

Despite findings many species are threatened

The Mekong's wildlife population is under threat from rapid, unsustainable development and climate change. One tragic indicator of the decline of biodiversity is the recent extinction of the Javan rhino in Vietnam, which was recently confirmed by WWF.

METRO

"Mekong governments have to stop thinking about biodiversity protection as a cost and recognize it as an investment to ensure long-term stability."

STUART CHAPMAN, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR OF WWF GREATER MEKONG

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Bird flies into action

Director Brad Bird takes the leap from family films into the explosive world of live-action entertainment with Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol How he adapted his technique

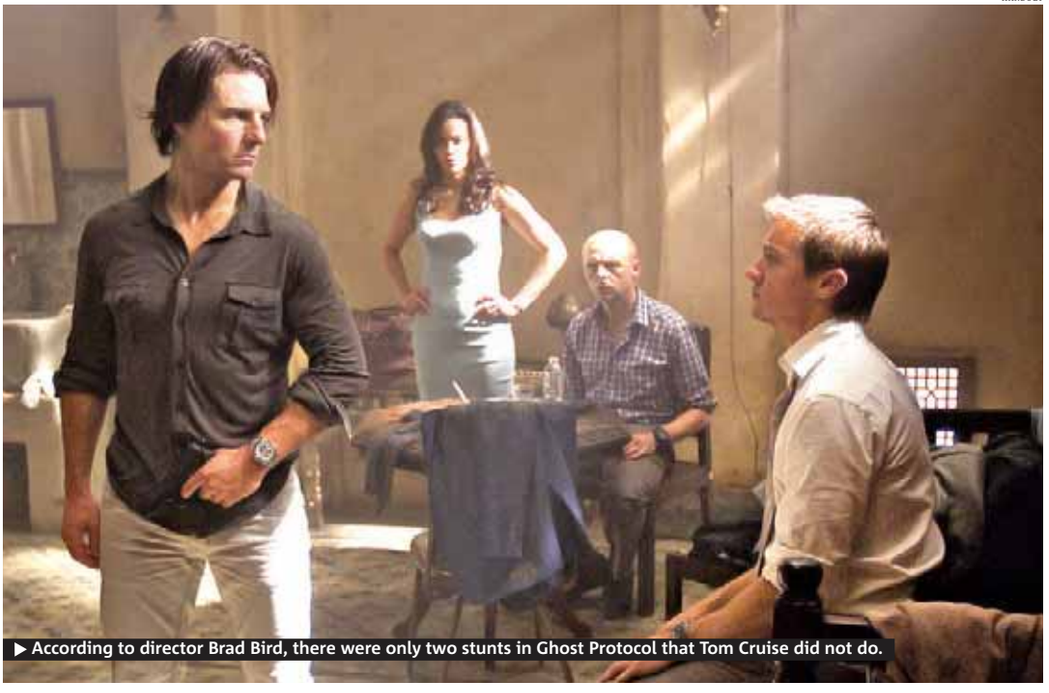
STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Brad Bird was not the most obvious candidate to take over the reins of the Tom Cruise multimillion-dollar Mission: Impossible film franchise.

While the filmmaker's Oscar-winning background stands on its own, it is mostly comprised of not only animated entertainment but specifically family-oriented favourites like Ratatouille and The Incredibles.

Now with Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol about to hit IMAX theatres this Friday (it opens on regular theatres next Wednesday), Brad Bird discussed leaping from kiddy cinema to explosive live-action entertainment.

HANDOUT



According to director Brad Bird, there were only two stunts in Ghost Protocol that Tom Cruise did not do.

What was the biggest challenge of going from choreographing animation to live-action?

If I had gone from hand-held animation, which my first film, The Iron Giant, was to live-action, it would've been a bigger leap but the last two films I did, The Incredibles and Ratatouille, were dimensional; there was CGI so you could move the camera through space and you could light it like you would any film so I got very comfortable with that.

So it actually felt fairly natural to move to real people and things.

Certainly The Incredibles had its share of action too. What do you love about spy films?

They're sleek and they're exotic and fast and kind of explosive. They can go from very quiet suspense to all hell breaking loose just like that. This movie is definitely in that realm and that's one of the reasons that I wanted to do it.

I understand that Tom Cruise did all of his own stunts in this — true?

There's only two that he didn't do and in both of them the stuntman got hurt so he was very wise in not doing those two. But all of the ones on the Burj Khalifa (the tallest building in the world) where you see him climbing around, that's him. People are going to say, 'oh, that can't be him' but it's him.

Brad Bird talks Mission: Impossible

- **Bird on tourists posting photos of Tom Cruise hanging from the side of Dubai's Burj Khalifa during filming:**
"At first we were mad because the very first stuff (we shot went) online and we were like 'We can't show this stuff before the movie comes out'. But then we thought this proves that he's there, he's not a special effect."

- **Bird on Ghost Protocol being the biggest of the Mission: Impossible franchise:**
"I don't think it's the most expensive but it is the biggest. We had to be very clever with how we did things but it is the biggest and it's enormous – it was a challenge to do absolutely."

2 scene

Box office

Meryl Streep may be considered one of the finest actresses around, yet she says she believed her career was over 20 years ago. Streep, now 62, tells Vogue magazine she was offered three different roles to play a witch after turning 40. She believed it meant women in her age group were "grotesque on some level." Streep graces the January cover of Vogue magazine for the first time.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clooney's Descendants named best film by LA critics; Fassbender wins best-actor prize

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DVD Releases

Rise of the Planet of the Apes
Genre: Action
Director: Rupert Wyatt
Stars: James Franco, Andy Serkis, Freido Pinto

The world needs another Planet of the Apes movie like a circus acrobat needs a banana peel. After five original films, two TV spin-offs and Tim Burton's failed 2001 "reimagining," the franchise has fleas. Yet Rise of the Planet of the Apes defies expectations (and fears), and two words explain why: Andy Serkis. The British magician behind the digital sorcery of Gollum and King Kong gives his finest performance yet as Caesar, the brainy chimp who leads a primate revolution against enslaving humans. Serkis commands the screen, combining his malleable features with the motion-capture technology he excels at. His Caesar conveys more emotion than any of the human characters. Director Rupert Wyatt's version, scripted by Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver (who previously teamed for The Relic), pays tribute to the original series without being bound by it. Not surprisingly, that story's object lesson about how slavery is all in the eye of the beholder doesn't resonate as strongly now. PETER HOWELL

Kung Fu Panda 2
Genre: Animation
Director: Jennifer Yu Nelson
Stars: Jack Black, Angelina Jolie, Jackie Chan

Director Jennifer Yuh Nelson's animated comedy sequel manages to have its fortune cookie and eat it, too, since it delivers both more action and fireworks (literally), while at the same time filling in the tragic back story of Po, the accidental panda warrior voiced by Jack Black.

This is a franchise that already benefits from glorious design. Panda 2's richly painted Chinese landscapes are a refreshing change from the usual sci-fi pursuits. In the first movie, Po's task was to learn martial arts from Master Shifu (voiced by Dustin Hoffman). This time out, Po must put his new skills to work battling evil peacock Lord Shen (Gary Oldman). Before you can say peacock feathers, Po reteams with his Furious Five buddies to stop Shen.

PETER HOWELL

Running with rodents

Jason Lee talks about the surreal experience of talking to stuffed animals and bean bags for the new Alvin and the Chipmunks film

NED EHRBAR
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HANDOUT

▶ Jason Lee reprises his role as chipmunk manager Dave Seville in Chipwrecked.

Jason Lee was more than happy to reprise his role as Dave Seville, the human minder and manager to a furry pop trio in Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked. But the third film in the franchise provided some new challenges for the actor — namely filming on a Carnival cruise ship. "I mean, we were only there for a week, but my idea of a getaway is not being on a cruise ship with thousands of people, personally," Lee says.

"You eat all day and all night, and you're out at sea. It's quite surreal, the cruise thing."

While Lee admits the process has gotten easier with the first two Chipmunks films under his belt, there's a surreality to working with virtual characters that never really goes away.

"It's always a bit surreal when you're looking at pieces of tape and stuffed animals and tan beanbags," he says, adding that more dramatic scenes — like an emotional reunion with his furry kids — can be especially jarring. '"Theodore, I miss you!' And it's a beanbag in your hand. It's kind of strange."

Not only is it kind of strange, but being the lone human wrangling six unruly critters — Alvin, Simon and Theodore as well as their female counterparts, the Chipettes — can add some extra layers of concentration for an actor — especially when it comes to remembering where they're standing.

"The running action, looking for the Chipmunks, grabbing them and that kind of stuff" poses the biggest challenges, Lee says. "It's the eye-line marks. When the volcano is erupting and you have to yell really loud and stuff is falling down, you're trying to remember which one is Jeanette. That stuff gets a little tricky, at times."

But despite the challenges of making a movie with animated chipmunks, Lee is thrilled to have some entries on his resumé for his children to enjoy.

"I always kind of set out to just work as an actor and try to do as many different things as I possibly could — and not be too selective or not be too careful," he says.

"I think just working is fun. I like that I've done kids' stuff, I like that I've done more dramatic stuff, I like that I did all the Kevin Smith stuff. I like that I've bounced around a lot."

Heading back to television

While former professional skateboarder Jason Lee got his start as an actor in films — mostly for Kevin Smith — it was his TV work that made him a star, especially on the four-year run of My Name is Earl. But while his most recent small-screen gig, the cable show Memphis Beat, didn't last, he's eager to get back on TV. "I'm actually developing some things now, and that's been a lot of fun," he says. "I've been meeting with writers and trying to get some things on the air, as a producer and as an actor. But, in the meantime, I've been having a lot of fun on [the sitcom] Up All Night."

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The Buck stops here

Andy Kim's annual charity show hits The Phoenix tomorrow with Rich Terfry, a.k.a. Buck65, on the lineup

IAN GORMERLY
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

HANDOUT

▶ Buck 65 will perform along with other musical guests including Ron Sexsmih and members of Broken Social Scene.

What can we expect Wednesday night?
There's going to be a house band who'll set up shop all night and will be there for anyone that wants to work with them. I'm still figuring out exactly what I'm going to do. I think everyone's doing max three songs.

Will you play something holiday related?
I definitely am. I'm kind of thinking I'll write a new song just for this show and given the spirit of the occasion I'm going to resist every temptation to make it something dark and depressing, which is really what my temptation is, given my take on the time of year. But I feel like I don't want to be too self-indulgent.

How do you feel about Christmas music in general?
It's kind of mixed. One of the worst three-day periods of my life, I had Frosty the Snowman stuck in my head and I was hearing it sung by a choir of children. It was driving me insane.

Were they popular in your house growing up?
Christmastime in my house was kind of a thing and it was my mother that made it a thing and she passed away 12 years ago. I still have these associations at this time of year with her and I find myself missing her more than Mother's Day or her birthday. She had her stack of Christmas records and the one that got the most play was the Kenny [Rogers] and Dolly [Parton] Christmas record. I'd be lying to you if I said it wasn't in my iTunes.

Do you have any personal favourites?
In addition to all the standard material there's a few others that have kind of fallen through the cracks. Right now in particular I'm thinking about a Lee Hazelwood song. Dirtnap Stories is as bleak and depressing as possible, but also beautiful and makes Christmas references throughout. You kind of can't play it in the summer.

Concert info

▶ For more information about the 7th Annual Andy Kim Christmas Show, visit andykimmusic.com.

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It's complicated: With simple songs

AMA's new artists of the year Hot Chelle Rae lay the groundwork for longevity by focusing on the fundamentals

It's easy to get a Hot Chelle Rae song stuck in your head. It's not so easy to write one.

The breezy lyrics and infectious melodies that have come to define the pop band might seem simple, but guitarist Nash Overstreet says there's an art to coming up with uncomplicated hooks that compel everyone to sing along.

"When you really get into it and you investigate the whole writing craft, you realize how difficult it is to write something so simple and so memorable that everybody in the country can know it as soon as you sing two lines from it," said Overstreet, 25.

"We've learned so much through this process, honing that skill and learning from producers and co-writers. We've just had a ball doing it."

"There's a lot of sacrifices you make for the better of the song," added drummer Jamie Follese, 19. "I won't necessarily get to play the most crazy drum part, but it makes the song a lot better."

The four friends from Nashville, Tenn., formed Hot Chelle Rae six years ago. They burst onto the scene this year, selling over 2 million copies of their smash hit Tonight Tonight, and dominating radio airplay with their follow up single I like it like that. They've been touring non-stop and were recently named new artist of the year at the American Music Awards. The band released a new album, Whatever, Nov. 29.

Whatever is Hot Chelle Rae's sophomore effort. It includes collaborations with hip-hop duo New Boyz on I like it like that, Demi Lovato on the ballad Why don't you love me, and rapper/producer Bei Maejor on the song Radio. Lead singer Ryan Follese, 24, even plays kazoo on the track Downtown Girl.

Maejor has worked with artists including Ne-Yo, Trey Songz, T-Pain and Wiz Khalifa. He thinks fans are connecting with Hot Chelle Rae's music because they push the limits and use strong, familiar melodies.

"I heard a quote before ... 'Simplicity is the essence of elegance.' That means that simple is dope," said Maejor. "There's definitely a hard line between making it simple and catchy and simple and stupid, and I think they definitely make it simple and catchy." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swift success

Being exposed to the vibrant music community in Nashville has proved beneficial for the group.

- Ryan and Overstreet met country crossover star Taylor Swift in 2009 when they co-wrote and produced the rap spoof Thug Story she performed with T-Pain for the CMT Music Awards.
- This summer, Hot Chelle Rae got a major boost when Swift asked them to be special guests at one of her four arena shows in Los Angeles.

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Hot Chelle Rae will be headlining their own Beautiful Freaks tour starting in February.

"There's a lot of sacrifices you make for the better of the song. I won't necessarily get to play the most crazy drum part, but it makes the song a lot better."
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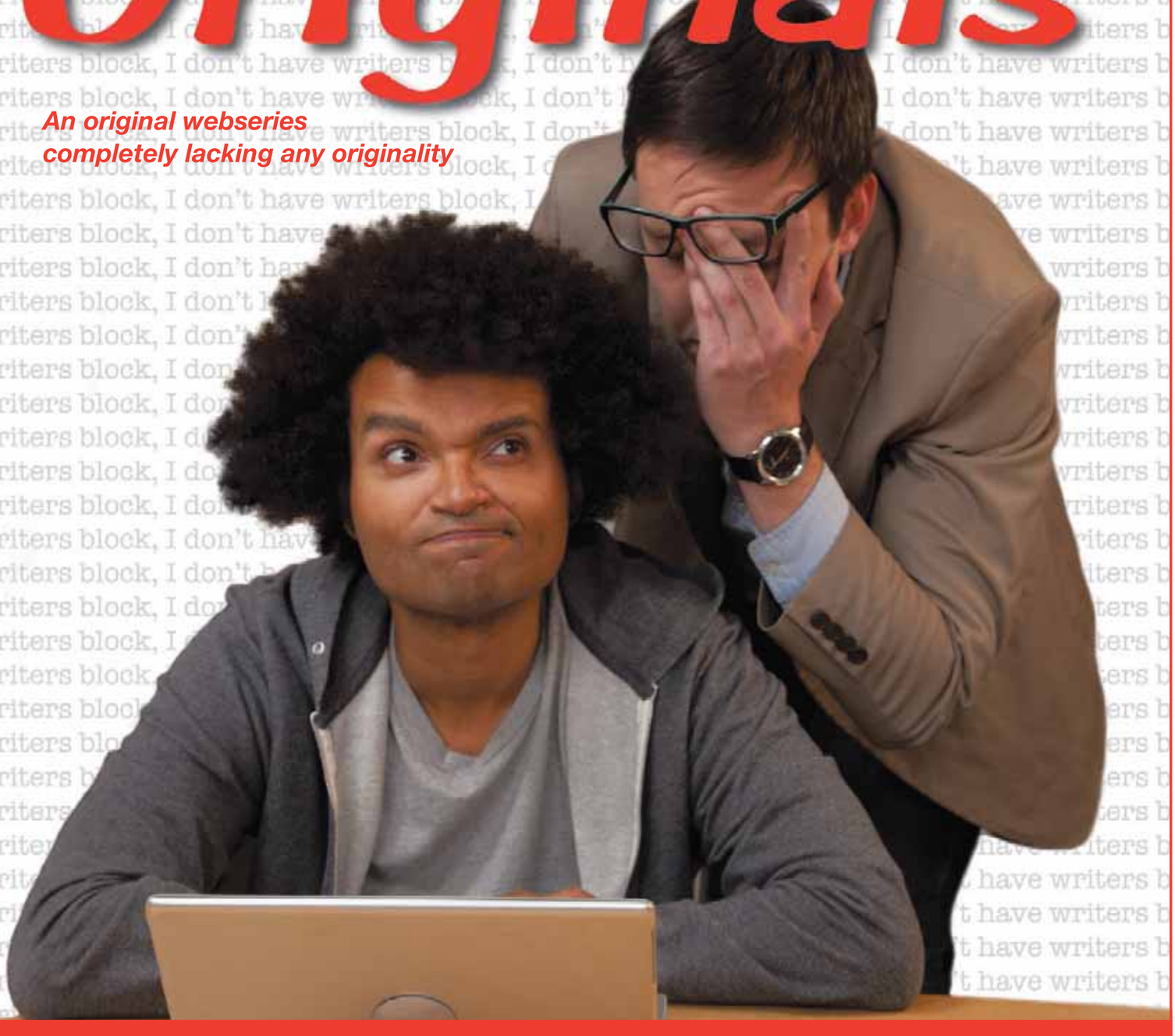

In today's episode..."The Situation"

As the cast gets a chance to strut their stuff New Jersey style, Jason attempts to finally connect with Carina. The question is will there be sparks or a nasty shock?

New episodes post every Tuesday and Thursday. Watch at www.facebook.com/OriginalsTheSeries

Hulk Hogan is not a homosexual, OK?

Wrestler grappling with allegations from ex-wife Claims they are untrue

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

Hulk Hogan

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Hulk Hogan, who filed a defamation suit against ex-wife Linda Bollea, says he's just trying to defend his reputation.

"After the four-year crazy divorce I thought I'd heard everything I could hear in the courtroom," the wrestling star tells Us Weekly.

"Then all of a sudden she says I abused her, that I was violent. She told everybody that I was a homosexual."

Hogan adds that his real problem with Bollea's accusations is that they aren't accurate.

"If any of that was true, I would admit it, and (if) I was a homosexual I would embrace it," he says.

"If you're going to say I'm something that I'm not to try to ruin my career and my livelihood, I have to answer her back."

Look, Linda. Just because at one point in his life, your ex-husband loved Spandex, tan skin, Fu Manchus, rippling muscles, had a huge boa scarf collection, ripped his shirt off at the drop of a hat and pinned sweaty men to the ground for a living, does not mean he was in the closet while you were married.

If it were someone else's husband, however, I'd be a tad worried.

Celebrity tweets

@JohnCleese

Nearly the end of another gruelling week of talking about myself. It's a good job that I'm so interesting...

@juliebenz

whenever someone says "we're only giving gifts to the kids this holiday season" my inner child screams "NO! I want presents too!!"

@russellcrowe

90 sweaty minutes in the gym. Some days you love it, some you hate it. Today was all love.

@SarahKSilverman

My dog has to think the elevator's a time machine, right? There's no other possible explanation.

A theft-filled weekend for Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay Lohan had a drama-filled weekend, and not just because of her leaked Playboy spread.

While partying in Hawaii, the troubled starlet reportedly had her purse stolen, according to TMZ.

The $5,000 Chanel handbag, which was snatched from a parked car, was said to contain $10,000 in cash.

The purse was later returned, minus the cash. Lohan was reportedly fretting another probation violation, as her passport and court documents allowing her to travel were also in the purse, but were returned safely.

Which leads us to a very pressing, unrelated question: Do drug dealers accept traveller's checks?

METRO

Lindsay Lohan

Kutcher's resolutions are set

Ashton Kutcher is looking to get a jump on his New Year's resolutions, and given the year he's had it's not such a surprise.

"I'm gonna do my resolution in December this year," he says in a Warner Bros. Studio interview.

"I'm resoluting for December so that when I come to January, and everybody else is having to go through the grind, I'm already ahead of it, I've already done it. It's like taking the PSATs. I'm just trying to stay ahead of the curve. There is a curve."

METRO

Rashida Jones

Rashida's not fond of marriage

Rashida Jones won't be looking to tie the knot anytime soon, if her feelings about marriage are any indication.

"I totally believe in romance and love and all that, but the actual institution of marriage — in this country, more than half the people get divorced. So, something's not working," she tells People magazine.

"I'm not staying it doesn't work for everybody. I love going to weddings."

But marriage or no marriage, Jones says what she looks for most in a man is a sense of humour.

"Funny is important," she says. "He doesn't have to laugh at my jokes. He has to make me laugh."

METRO

K-Fed's 'Excess Baggage'

Kevin Federline was hospitalized in Australia recently while filming Excess Baggage, a weight-loss reality TV show, according to E! Online.

"Our first shoot was in November in the Kimberley region in Outback, Western Australia, widely regarded as one of the most remote and hostile parts of the country," a spokesman for the show says.

"During the shoot, under advice from the show's medic, Kevin was taken to hospital as he was showing signs of heat stress."

The former back-up dancer is said to be doing fine and already back for more filming in the area.

METRO

Babies are skeptics

New study shows that even infants can detect when you're acting shady They'll start to tune you out So remember: just because they're little, doesn't mean they aren't on to you

CELIA MILNE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK PHOTOS

▶ Don't confuse their cuteness — babies can tell when your actions don't add up.

You can't trick babies. They'll distrust you.

Researchers in psychology at Concordia University in Montreal have found that infants just over a year old can already get a bead on who is reliable and who is unreliable. The babies will quickly start ignoring cues from those who are unreliable.

"Even babies detect when someone's behaviour is not conventional," says Diane Poulin-Dubois, a professor of psychology at Concordia University. "It seems that they then turn off the 'learning switch' that typically makes them learn from that person."

Poulin-Dubois and colleagues conducted a study with 60 babies between 13 and 16 months of age.

The wee ones were divided into two groups — those with a reliable adult and those with an unreliable adult — and shown tasks they could mimic. In the first task, testers looked inside a container and expressed excitement and delight before handing the container to the baby.

In the reliable group, there was a toy inside. In the unreliable group, the container was empty. This was repeated several times.

For the second task, the same adult showed the babies a touch-on light. The tester placed it on a desk and switched it on by leaning forward and using the forehead.

This was repeated three times before passing the light to the infant. Infants who had been tricked in the first experiment were far less likely to imitate the adult. Over two attempts, 34 per cent of infants in the unreliable condition mimicked the adult, versus 61 per cent of infants in the reliable condition.

"Babies are setting down the groundwork for a lifelong skill — remaining vigilant about who is an expert and who is not," says Poulin-Dubois.

The study was published in the journal Infant Behaviour and Development.

Learning

Babies learn from older humans. But would they copy a robot?

Robots A team of researchers from the University of Washington found babies will imitate a robot if they have previously seen the robot playing with someone. Turns out, it's more important to babies that robots are sociable than that they look human.

3 life

Trends

Twenty-two-year-old Russian Kristina Rei thought her 'thin' lips made her unpretty, so she decided to spend $5,000 (around 100 injections) in order have the pillow lips of cartoon character Jessica Rabbit. The nail technician is admitting she, like a growing number of women, has an addiction to it. METRO

Born smaller than soda cans, tiniest babies are growing up healthy

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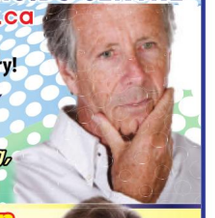

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Best Health Minute

BONNIE MUNDAY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

ISTOCK PHOTOS

Eat, Think and Be Merry In the December issue of Best Health, our registered dietitian columnist Sue Mah put together some excellent tips for navigating the holiday events and their appetizer trays and buffet tables. A big part of it, she says, is eating mindfully — that is, really taking time to focus on what you eat, and more importantly, how you eat. Here are a few ways.

1. Do a walkabout
Before you even put a single piece of food on your plate, take a stroll around the buffet table and check out all of the options. Mentally classify them as 'must try' or 'can do without them today.' On your plate, put a few bites of a small portion of the 'must try' foods — making sure there are two types of vegetables — plus one 'must try' dessert.

2. Chat
After your first plate of food, you may feel like going back for seconds. Instead, sit back and take a planned break to catch up with friends. It takes about 20 minutes for your stomach to tell your brain you're full. After 20 minutes, ask yourself if you're really still hungry.

3. Keep your distance
Avoid standing near the party nibbles unless you have incredible willpower. When food is easily within reach, chances are you'll pick up a bite or two, or three.

Let's say that two hors-d'oeuvres have 100 calories. By the time you've eaten a few, you have had the equivalent of a small meal.

Get 5 more tips in the December issue of Best Health, on newsstands now. And find our roundup of actual-size party snacks, along with their calories and fat grams. It may just help you get through party season with no added pounds. For example, can you guess what's in one of those mini quiches?

A. 50 calories and 1 gram of fat.
B. 65 calories and 3 grams of fat.
C. 80 calories and 6 grams of fat.

The answer is C. Those little party snacks can really add up.

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THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Chocolate Peanut Butter Covered Apples

Preparation:

1. In a small saucepan over medium-low, heat cream and peanut butter until bubbling. Remove pan from heat and add chocolate bits. Stir until completely smooth. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.
2. From bottom, push a pop stick up into core of each apple. The stick should go deep enough to be sturdy, but leave enough exposed to serve as a handle.
3. Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Place peanuts in bowls, if using.
4. One at a time, using sticks as handles, dip apples in chocolate mixture. Use a spoon to scoop up extra chocolate and pour over apples to help coat sides. Allow extra chocolate to drip back into pan. Dip coated apples into nuts. Stand apples, stick in air, on lined baking sheet. Refrigerate until firm.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients:

- 90 ml (3 oz) heavy cream
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) creamy peanut butter
- 175 g (6 oz) bittersweet chocolate bits
- 4 apples (any variety)
- 4 wooden pop sticks
- Chopped salted peanuts (optional)

Healthy & delicious mingle

Café Shu offers homemade dishes using local and organic ingredients

LUNCH RUSH

STEPHANIE DICKISON
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

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Rating: 5 out of 5

Owner of Café Shu, Hana makes homemade dishes that focus on healthy, local and organic ingredients.

The difference here is healthy is darn tasty, too.

Seats are five stools right in the hallway of the club beside a window into a workout room. (At least you'll be eating healthy while not exercising.)

Rich Hummus Wraps (from scratch) with sprouts and avocado combined with the Soup of the Day ($10) is a great lunch option, as is the Daily Grain Salad, which today happens to be a velvety Peanut Shirataki (tofu) Noodle Salad with carrots and baby bok choy ($6.99).

What a great New Year's resolution — you can finally say you're going to the gym for lunch!

It's not a complete lie.

STEPHANIE DICKISON

▶ Soup of the Day and Daily Grain Salad.

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Festive cake that's fit for Christmastime

Combine seasonal pears with tart dried cranberries and a decadent frosting in this treat that serves 16

Preparation:

1. Coat two 23-cm (9-inch) round cake pans with baking spray. Line each with parchment paper.
2. In bowl of electric mixer, beat sugar, butter, vanilla, baking powder, baking soda, ground ginger and salt until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, scraping bowl between additions.
3. Stir in pears and flour and mix until combined. Stir in cranberries. Divide batter between prepared cake pans and bake in 180 C (350 F) oven 30 mins. or until wooden pick inserted comes out clean. Let cool in pans 10 mins; turn onto wire rack to finish cooling.
4. Frosting: In bowl of an electric mixer, beat butter, sugar, orange rind, ground cardamom, ginger and cinnamon until creamy. Add cream cheese and mix until completely incorporated and smooth.
5. To assemble, place 1 cake on serving plate, spread 175 ml (3/4 cup) of frosting evenly over top of it. Place second cake over it. Spread remaining frosting over top and sides of cake, swirling frosting. Decorate with strips of orange zest and dried cranberries, if desired. Refrigerate until ready to serve. **ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CHEF. (EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ingredients:

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) granulated sugar
- 125 ml (1/2 cup/1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) vanilla
- 10 ml (2 tsp) baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cinnamon
- 5 ml (1 tsp) baking soda
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ginger
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 2 eggs
- 3 ripe pears, cored, peeled and finely chopped
- 500 ml (2 cups) all-purpose flour
- 500 ml (2 cups) chopped dried cranberries

Frosting

- 250 ml (1 cup/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 500 ml (2 cups) icing sugar
- 10 mL (2 tsp) grated orange rind
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) cardamom
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ginger
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) cinnamon
- 2 pkgs (each 250 g/8 oz) cream cheese
- Strips of orange rind and dried cranberries, to decorate

THE DRUNK-DRIVING ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

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As a hostess, how do I deal with drinking and driving for my guests at my Christmas party?
Nervous hostess

ISTOCK

▶ This guy is doing the right thing. There's a drink in his hand, so therefore the keys should not be.

Dear Nervous Hostess,

Good on you for asking the important question! I don't need to tell readers the importance of this subject. I personally think it is just as delicate a subject no matter who this concerns. As a butler I have had to deal with this on several occasions.

Firstly, try to be prepared ahead of time. Suggest a designated driver at your event (this person can drive numerous guests home as needed) and/or have some cash on hand to send someone home by taxi if required.

After doing some research, the auto insurance website progressive.com had some great suggestions:

1. If the person is a close friend, try to use a soft, calm approach at first. Suggest that he's had too much to drink and it would be better to let someone else drive or to take a cab.

2. Be calm.

3. Try to make it sound like you are doing them a favour.

4. If the person is somebody you don't know well, speak to his friends and have them make an attempt to persuade him to hand over the keys. Usually, he will listen.

5. If the person is a good friend, spouse or significant other, tell him that if he insists on driving, you are not going with him. Tell him that you will call someone else for a ride, take a cab or walk.

6. Locate the person's keys while he is preoccupied and take them away.

Most likely, he will think he's lost his keys and will be forced to find another mode of transportation.

If possible, avoid embarrassing the person or being confrontational.

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL CHARLES AT ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA.

Helping you find love

Siggy Flicker, star of VH1's Why Am I Still Single?! offers some tips

MEREDITH ENGEL
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Siggy Flicker

Siggy Flicker knows there's another popular TV matchmaker out there, but she'll be the first to tell you that that's where their similarities end.

"I am the opposite of the Millionaire Matchmaker," said Flicker, the star of VH1's Why Am I Still Single?!

"She annoys the hell out of me. First off, I was married to a millionaire, and I left all that behind, got divorced in search of chemistry and love, and I found it with a car salesman. I don't believe in (excluding love) to just the Millionaire's Club.

"There's nothing more important than chemistry."

We got Flicker's top tips for meeting and keeping the man or woman of your dreams.

MEETING SOMEONE

Be open to love

"If you watch somebody walking out of an office building today, they're usually on their iPod, on their cellphone, on their BlackBerry — I say first of all, look up. There is no specific place to meet somebody. Stand tall and open up your eyes to your surroundings. It's all about the energy you're giving off. If you're closed off and texting, your shoulders are shrugged and you're looking down — you're giving the message that you are not available. If you're single, honey, enjoy the fact that you're single. Walk tall, walk straight, keep yourself open."

Break your routine

"Go out at least twice a week. It should be more important than your full-time job. What's more important, money or love? I say love. So twice a week go out. It doesn't have to be to a bar — a bar is my least (recommended choice). Get out of the bubble. So many people have a routine; I say break the bubble twice a week. Take a class on something that you've always been passionate about — it could be ballroom dancing, it could be pole dancing."

Choose your wingmen/women wisely

"If you're single, do not go out with other singles. Why (allow for) competition? Go out with your friends who are married or in healthy, committed relationships. Take somebody who's on your side, who's gonna help you seal the deal."

KEEPING SOMEONE

Keep the beginning easy-breezy

"Your first date should be what do you do for a living, what do you like to do when you're not working. You talk about things that are light. You do not talk about past relationships, you do not talk about sex, what positions you like in bed, you don't talk about politics. Don't talk about your ex, your expectations — don't talk about anything that has to do with the past."

Practice good table manners

"It should go without saying, but unfortunately, it doesn't. ... A lot of people don't have table manners. If you don't know how to eat ... with your mouth closed, we gotta practice."

Maintain eye contact

"I had a client, all he did was look at his napkin. That comes from fear of rejection. Who cares? I always say a man's rejection is God's protection, a woman's rejection is God's protection.

"If somebody doesn't want you, who cares? You move on."

Have a positive attitude

"I have so many Dan and Debbie Downers," she says. It's especially important to stay upbeat even if you're not feeling a connection.

"Don't shut down right away because (your date) is a person of value, and you might learn (about) something like a new book, a new place to travel to, or, guess what? That person can walk away and say, 'You know what, I didn't really have a good time on my date, but I know two other single guys in my office who would really dig her.'"

Let go of unrealistic expectations

"We all want the same thing, but when you limit yourself to what the physicality of somebody is you're shutting off so many doors. (After my divorce) I went on date after date until I found the lid to my pot, which turned out to be a bald car salesman who I'm in love with."

ULTIMATUM TANTAMOUNT TO DISMISSAL

Case demonstrates again that resignations put forth under pressure are likely to be considered dismissals

WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN
DAN@TORONTO-EMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM
TWITTER: @DANLUBLIN

Following a bad day at work and thinking that he would be fired, Philip Chan elected to resign instead. However, in another tale from the workplace trenches with an ending you would not expect, a court found that Chan's resignation was actually a termination.

Chan, the general manager of a busy Denny's restaurant in Langley, B.C., had his fair share of problems with his supervisor, who had repeatedly criticized his performance.

Although Chan had been well-regarded within the company, by May 2009 the tone and content of the communication from his boss led him to believe that he would soon be fired. Matters came to a head when Chan was given the choice of being dismissed or resigning.

ISTOCK

▶ Feeling a little boxed in by your options? If your employer offers you no other choice but to resign or get fired you may have cause to contest their behaviour after the fact.

For Chan, "saving face" was paramount, so he resigned rather than face dismissal. However, at the urging of another senior employee, Chan soon returned to his job. His content with his boss would not last long.

After another hectic day at the restaurant, Chan's manager came to him once more and said that he could choose to resign or else he would be fired. Again, faced with the possibility of explaining his termination to prospective employers, Chan opted to resign. He drafted a letter confirming his decision and left work. This time, however, although Chan's departure was permanent, he was not about to go quietly. Chan recently sued Denny's, arguing that the ultimatum he was given was tantamount to a dismissal.

At a recent trial, the judge drew a clear bright line between an employee who voluntarily leaves and one who is told he will otherwise be fired.

Here, although Chan's statements and actions were consistent with an employee who wanted out, they were provided in the context of an ultimatum that he would be fired and in response to a boss who had tried to force his resignation once before. Chan was awarded wrongful dismissal damages and his legal costs.

Although the results of this case may have been surprising, the law in this area is quite clear: Canadian courts are loath to uphold a resignation proffered under circumstances of pressure or an ultimatum and instead will usually find that the employee has been fired.

DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP.

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YEAR END TAX TIPS

FUN AND FRUGAL

LESLEY SCORGIE
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

2011 is coming to an end and it's time to maximize your personal tax situation before ringing in the New Year. Avoid giving Ebenezer Scrooge more tax than you need to.

First, determine your taxable income for 2011. If you cashed in RRSPs, sold an investment property, received a bonus or pay-out from an employer, your income will be different from your regular salary.

If you collected Employment Insurance (EI) and its associated benefits, tax withheld from EI is typically insufficient to cover your annual tax liability.

Don't get caught off guard by a major tax bill this spring. Meet with a tax advisor now to strategize ways to reduce your taxes. For the majority of Canadians, the most powerful way to reduce taxes is to contribute to an RRSP.

Second, the markets were a roller coaster in 2011 and many people are facing capital losses on their investments. Review your portfolio with a financial advisor to determine if you'd benefit from taking a loss or cashing in a gain.

Third, give money by December 31, 2011 and save big! If you give more than $200 you'll receive a 29 per cent federal credit instead of the 15 per cent credit for donations under $200. Donations also receive provincial credits.

Don't wait until the last day of 2011 to make an appointment with your financial advisor. Exploring ways to save on 2011 taxes now could save you a hefty tax bill next spring.

FOR LESLEY SCORGIE'S FULL COLUMN VISIT METRONEWS.CA

Revel in small pleasures

ON MONEY

ALISON GRIFFITHS
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

Taking a break, as I've just done for the past two weeks, is one of the hardest things about being a freelance writer and broadcaster. Anyone who is self-employed will nod in agreement.

For one thing, it's hard to turn down work — you don't know when the next job will come along or if a regular gig suddenly disappears.

The problem with never turning down work is that you rarely stop to smell the roses. While many of us in this situation love what we do, work should give us the opportunity to enjoy our lives.

Whether it's roses that excite you, sports, crafts or travel, our other interests are what feed our souls and keep us balanced in troubled times.

Recently, I've been stewing over the way a publication I've worked with for years has treated me. I wanted to rage and complain. Instead, I went for a run in the woods with my dogs and gloried in their enthusiasm. I'm still upset but my non-work interests helped ameliorate the blow.

After earning your paycheque, if you can do something that makes you happy or even just content, then the work has been worthwhile.

While I was off I took a friend to a rehab session after his knee replacement. I saved him a couple of hours travel time and had a nice visit. And I had a long phone conversation with another old friend whose uncle had recently died and she was trying to sort out his estate. The best part was enjoying the moment — seizing it in fact.

ISTOCK

▶ Alison's money rule: Earning money is important but not if you don't enjoy life outside work.

I also tried to revel in life's mundane routines, which often pass in a blur but can actually be pleasurable if you focus on them.

I cleared out some clutter, listened to a neighbour complain about his health problems, raked some leaves and hung up bungee cords that were in a tangled pile. Though I'm sorry to say the enjoyable routine magic didn't work with vacuuming.

It is the season of resolutions but rather than come up with things you should do or do better, direct your thoughts to your work and non-work life. Make the most out of each as best you can and feel good about the small things.

ALISON GRIFFITHS IS THE AUTHOR OF THE UPCOMING BOOK COUNT ON YOURSELF: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY. REACH HER AT ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA OR GRIFFITHS.ALISON@GMAIL.COM.

10 most shoplifted items of the holiday season

As if this time of year wasn't stressful enough for retailers

'Tis the season for stealing Elmo and electric tools

The holiday season sees plenty of merchandise fly off the shelves, whether it's paid for or not.

Scores of shoppers will pass through the doors of countless retailers, but one in 11 of them will walk out for something they swiped with a five-finger discount, according to the National Association of Shoplifting Prevention in the U.S. In fact, $119 billion worth of merchandise will be shoplifted this year.

If you're picturing riff-raff kids stuffing stuff in their back pockets on a dare, think again: 75 per cent of all shoplifters are actually adults — adults who say they are only caught about once for every 48 times that they steal.

What is it they're after, you ask? Ad Week spoke to security professionals who named the top 10 most popular items for shoplifters — and not all of them are big-ticket items.

ISTOCK

▶ Nothing beats the thrill of stuffing cold, raw meat down your pants and making for the door.

1 Filet mignon

Luxury meat theft is up by 21 per cent, making grocery stores and markets the most common setting for shoplifting.

2 Jameson

Shockingly, people who love to steal also love to drink. Pricey liquor makes up about 2.9 per cent of stolen merchandise.

3 Electric tools

Shoplifters, though a sneaky breed, are also quite handy. DIY items are the third most popular category for thieves — think electric toothbrushes and power tools.

4 iPhone4

No surprise here — digital gadgets, in general, fly right off the shelves and right into pockets. Apple products are especially popular among shoplifters.

The iSteal phenomenon will see 100,000 laptops shoplifted this year from big-box retailers, according to the AJ Novick Group.

5 Gillette Mach 4 Razor blades

Shoplifters have discerning taste when it comes to a smooth, close shave. Not just any razor blade will do.

The $23 replacement packs and other shaving products make up 2.7 per cent of stolen items.

6 AXE

How dirty shoplifters get clean; for some reason, personal hygiene products like AXE are a hot-ticket item when it comes to theft — you might see them re-sold at flea markets.

7 Polo Ralph Lauren

Shoplifters, the well-dressed people they are, have impeccable taste when it comes to fashion.

Tommy Hilfiger is another popular brand. Theft among clothing has increased 31 per cent since 2009.

8 Let's Rock Elmo

Yes, Elmo is still popular. So popular, in fact, that it's a frequent shoplifting target, along with every item on Toys"R"Us Holiday Hot Toy List. Kids don't care how you get it, right?

9 Chanel No. 5

Shoplifters need to smell good, too. Pricey perfumes make up about four per cent of lifted merchandise.

10 Nikes

Apparently these are highly-desirable and pretty easy to steal in a crowded store.

Proper arch support is important to everyone, and that includes shoplifters.

METRO NEW YORK

4 sports

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Ricky Ray has been traded to the Argonauts.

A Ray of hope for Argos?

Toronto obtains veteran quarterback Ricky Ray from Edmonton for Jyles, kicker, top pick
32-year-old has spent his entire CFL career with Eskimos, including two Grey Cup wins

Ricky Ray is heading East.

The Toronto Argonauts acquired the veteran quarterback from the Edmonton Eskimos for quarterback Steven Jyles, kicker Grant Shaw and the second-overall selection in the 2012 CFL Canadian College Draft.

"Our mission since 2010 has been to build the Argos into a consistent and credible football team," Argos general manager Jim Barker said in a statement. "This trade moves that process along and demonstrates our commitment to re-establishing Argos football in this city. While we gave up a lot, we felt it was important to be aggressive and go after what we needed.

6
Number of seasons in which Ricky Ray has thrown for at least 4,500 yards.

"This trade is an investment by our organization in the future of the Double Blue and in its new on-field leader, Ricky Ray."

Edmonton GM Eric Tillman said he didn't enter the off-season intent on trading Ray. However, he added the Argos' dogged pursuit of the veteran quarterback resulted in a deal that Tillman believes makes the Eskimos younger and improves their Canadian content.

"We're getting a guy who has shown year in and year out that he's going to be near the top in the league in touchdowns, completion percentage, quarterback rating and all those things."
ARGOS GM JIM BARKER

"They were very aggressive," Tillman said. "We were not looking to trade Ricky and were very reluctant to do so."

But Jyles won't be handed the Eskimos starting job. Tillman said Jyles will have to compete in training camp for the No. 1 position against veteran Kerry Joseph and youngsters Matt Nichols and Eric Ward.

The Argos will officially introduce their newest addition tomorrow morning in Toronto.

The 32-year-old Ray had spent his entire nine-year CFL career with Edmonton, leading the Eskimos to two Grey Cup championships over that span.

"I would like to thank the Edmonton Eskimos and their fans for nine years of good memories and for giving me the opportunity to play for such a good organization and win a couple of championships," Ray said in a statement.

"While it's tough to leave all the people who have helped me in my career, I'm excited to move forward, take the next step in my career and come to Toronto, an organization with a rich history and tradition where we will have another chance to win a Grey Cup."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs preview

Carolina at Toronto
7 p.m.
TV: SNET

Toronto (15-11-3) is looking to turn things around against the Hurricanes (9-18-4) after winning just one of its last five games. Carolina beat Edmonton 5-3 last Wednesday for new head coach Kirk Muller's first career NHL victory, but followed that with a 4-2 loss to Winnipeg. Eric Staal has nine points in his last seven games, raising his season total to 19. He leads the Hurricanes with 112 shots. Jaroslav Spacek assisted on both goals against the Jets in his Hurricanes debut after being acquired for former Maple Leaf Tomas Kaberle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crosby's comeback on hold

Sidney Crosby is back on the shelf — his comeback stalled indefinitely with concussion-like symptoms.

"Frustrating, I don't think that even describes it," Crosby told reporters.

Still the Pittsburgh Penguins star looked for positives yesterday, saying he is feeling "much, much better" than he did after being levelled by big hits in successive games Jan. 1 and Jan. 5 that triggered his 10-month absence from the game. He also said he felt worse only a few weeks before the Penguins training camp in mid-September.

"(Crosby's) been away for so long, and was so happy to be playing with us again. It's been crazy."
GOALIE MARC-ANDRE FLEURY

"It's much different than previously going through that stuff," Crosby said. "I'm way better off than I was dealing with this stuff 10 months ago or whatever it was."

Still it's a setback for the NHL's biggest star, only three weeks removed from a spectacular comeback.

"I just figured it was better to be cautious here and not take any chances. That's kind of where I'm at right now," Crosby said.

Crosby's comeback appeared to be a success until he experienced headaches following a 3-1 loss to Boston on Dec. 5.

After sitting out a pair of road games as a precaution, Crosby was expected to return to practice yesterday.

Instead he sat out and told reporters that he won't practise or play until he is symptom-free. He wouldn't guess when that might be.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

Jays trade for outfielder

BASEBALL. The Toronto Blue Jays acquired outfielder Ben Francisco from the Philadelphia Phillies yesterday in exchange for left-handed pitcher Frank Gailey.

Francisco, 30, had a .244 average with six homers and 34 RBIs in 100 games for the Phillies this past season. Over parts of five major-league seasons with Cleveland and Philadelphia, Francisco has a .260 average with 45 home runs and 174 RBIs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kings dump their coach

HOCKEY. The Los Angeles Kings fired coach Terry Murray yesterday after a slow start to a season of high expectations.

Murray was replaced by assistant coach John Stevens, who will be the Kings' interim head coach when they open a four-game road trip today in Boston. Los Angeles has lost four straight games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raptors hope young legs provide edge

Youthful squad could capitalize on short season

If the shortened NBA season is going to be a sprint, the Toronto Raptors believe they at least have the young legs to keep up.

The Raptors held their traditional media day yesterday at Air Canada Centre ahead of what will be a far from traditional season, with 66 games crammed into four months on the heels of the NBA lockout.

The first month alone features a stretch of three games in three nights — a gutbusting feat to be sure, and one that could take a serious toll on older teams.

"Hopefully we catch some of the older teams on the back-to-backs, or the back-to-back-to-backs," said Raptors swingman DeMar DeRozan. "I think we should take heed of that. We've got young legs and hopefully we'll be able to bounce back faster than other teams and we should use that to our advantage."

To bolster his solid young nucleus of DeRozan, Ed Davis and Amir Johnson, Raptors general manager Bryan Colangelo beefed up the veteran presence, signing Toronto native Jamaal Magloire, Anthony Carter and Rasual Butler.

Coach Dwane Casey said they'll be expected to be much more than just veteran voices in the locker-room in this grind of a season.

"All those (veteran) guys are going to get more minutes than they can stand. We'll have a solid rotation but still distributing minutes with the number of games that are coming as rapidly as they are going to come," Casey said.

"The good thing about it is, guys complain about playing time. There shouldn't be a reason why guys complain about playing time because there's going to be enough minutes to go around to keep from wearing guys down, where there still is energy at the end of a game.

"I think we have 17 games in the first 20-something days. A lot of games, a lot of minutes."

Magloire, the first Canadian to play for the Raptors in their 16 seasons, quickly made his presence felt in the locker room when he arrived last Friday.

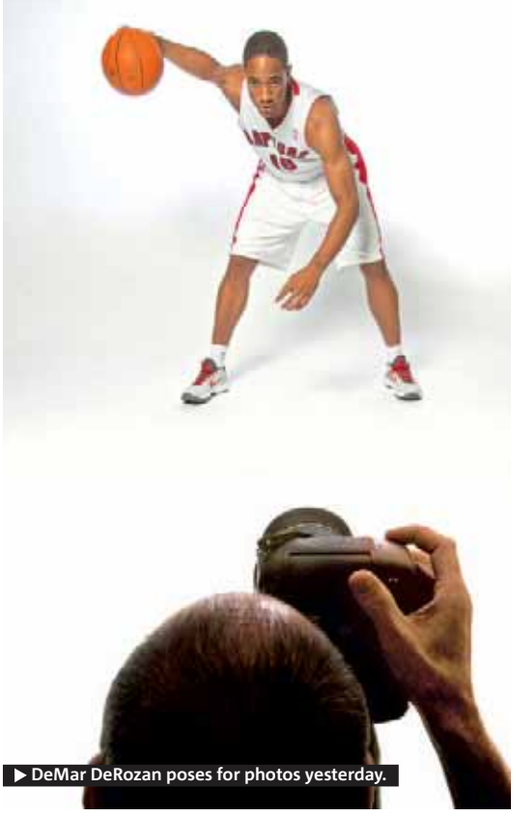
"In the first players meeting (he) stepped up and said some great things that I hadn't heard anybody say in awhile," Colangelo said. "It actually prompted a number of other players to step up and say something, so he already had an impact just in the first half an hour he was with this club."

The 33-year-old Magloire, a veteran of 11 NBA seasons, said he gladly shoulders a leadership role with his new team.

"All I'm trying to get across is we're going to work extremely hard in training camp and if we set the right foundation down, we're going to give ourselves a chance to win every night," Magloire said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ DeMar DeRozan poses for photos yesterday.

"It's going to be back-to-backs, flying almost every night. Everybody's got to be into their roles and know what we're doing."
JOSE CALDERON

WHO'LL BE IN LEAFS NET?

Guessing game continues

James Reimer's return from injury was supposed to stabilize the Toronto Maple Leafs goaltending situation.

But 10 days after making his way back into the lineup, the picture is no clearer than it was while he spent six weeks recovering from concussion-like symptoms. Reimer has gone 0-2-1 in his return and coach Ron Wilson was non-committal when asked if he would continue to roll with him in goal.

"It's hard to say what the order is going to be," Wilson said after yesterday's practice.

"I have in my mind who's going to play (Tuesday) night (against Carolina) and beyond that I haven't decided."

He declined to name his starter against the Hurricanes.

Adding some intrigue to the situation is the fact backup Jonas Gustavsson was playing well when Reimer returned. The man known as The Monster is 9-5-0 on the season and has won five of his last six starts.

Reimer acknowledged that there's been an adjustment in his return to the crease after a long stretch of inactivity.

"You're hoping it's not like that, but you can't replicate games, especially when you're out for so long and not doing anything for so long," said Reimer. "When all you can do to fix the injury is do nothing you kind of get out the loop a little bit. I'm just trying to focus real hard and work on my game."

Reimer entered the season as the team's unquestioned No. 1 goaltender and reeled off four victories in five games before getting injured in a collision with Habs captain Brian Gionta on Oct. 22.

The 23-year-old believes he's almost back to that level again and was particularly encouraged by his last outing against the Capitals — a 4-2 loss on Friday night.

"In Washington, I felt pretty much as good as a goalie can feel going into the game and even during the game," said Reimer. "Nothing surprised me, nothing came at me I wasn't expecting. It was just a couple of bad bounces.

"I felt that that was a good game for me as far as feeling how I need to feel."

The Leafs have slipped to sixth in the Eastern Conference and are anxious to avoid falling into a long losing skid. After facing the Hurricanes, they travel to Buffalo on Friday and host the red-hot Vancouver Canucks on Saturday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	28	18	7	2	1	101	81	39	8-4-1-1	10-3-1-0	7-3-0-0	W5
d-Boston	28	18	9	0	1	94	59	37	10-6-0-1	8-3-0-0	7-2-0-1	W1
d-Florida	30	16	9	2	3	82	77	37	6-2-1-3	10-7-1-0	5-3-2-0	L2
NY Rangers	27	17	6	1	3	83	60	38	8-2-0-2	9-4-1-1	7-2-0-1	W2
Pittsburgh	30	17	9	2	2	94	75	38	8-2-2-0	9-7-0-2	6-3-1-0	W1
Toronto	**29**	**15**	**11**	**2**	**1**	**91**	**94**	**33**	**6-4-2-1**	**9-7-0-0**	**5-4-1-0**	**L2**
Buffalo	29	15	12	1	1	79	79	32	7-9-1-1	8-3-0-0	3-5-1-1	L1
Washington	28	15	12	0	1	88	89	31	10-4-0-1	5-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W2
New Jersey	29	15	13	0	1	76	84	31	6-5-0-1	9-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Montreal	30	12	11	2	5	74	77	31	4-5-2-4	8-6-0-1	2-3-2-3	W1
Winnipeg	29	13	12	3	1	82	92	30	9-4-0-0	4-8-3-1	6-3-1-0	L1
Ottawa	30	13	13	2	2	91	105	30	7-6-0-1	6-7-2-1	3-4-2-1	L3
Tampa Bay	30	12	16	0	2	79	101	26	7-5-0-0	5-11-0-2	3-7-0-0	L2
NY Islanders	27	9	12	4	2	62	88	24	6-7-3-0	3-5-1-2	4-3-2-1	L2
Carolina	31	9	18	2	2	79	108	22	5-9-0-2	4-9-2-0	2-8-0-0	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Minnesota	30	20	7	2	1	79	64	43	10-4-1-0	10-3-1-1	8-2-0-0	W7
d-Chicago	30	18	8	1	3	99	92	40	9-2-0-3	9-6-1-0	6-3-0-1	W2
d-Dallas	28	16	11	0	1	73	78	33	9-4-0-1	7-7-0-0	5-4-0-1	W1
Detroit	28	18	9	1	0	89	62	37	12-2-1-0	6-7-0-0	8-2-0-0	W2
Vancouver	29	18	10	0	1	97	71	37	8-4-0-1	10-6-0-0	9-1-0-0	W4
St. Louis	29	17	9	0	3	71	62	37	11-3-0-1	6-6-0-2	7-2-0-1	W3
Phoenix	29	15	11	1	2	77	76	33	6-6-1-1	9-5-0-1	5-5-0-0	L2
San Jose	27	15	10	2	0	75	64	32	8-6-1-0	7-4-1-0	4-5-1-0	L2
Nashville	29	14	11	3	1	77	79	32	5-5-2-1	9-6-1-0	4-6-0-0	W2
Edmonton	30	14	13	0	3	83	80	31	9-5-0-2	5-8-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
Calgary	29	14	13	1	1	73	80	30	8-5-1-1	6-8-0-0	6-3-0-1	W3
Los Angeles	29	13	12	2	2	65	67	30	8-9-0-1	5-3-2-1	3-6-1-0	L4
Colorado	30	13	16	1	0	78	91	27	7-9-0-0	6-7-1-0	4-6-0-0	L3
Anaheim	29	8	16	2	3	67	95	21	6-9-1-0	2-7-1-3	2-7-1-0	L2
Columbus	29	8	17	1	3	71	99	20	5-8-1-1	3-9-0-2	3-4-2-1	L2

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's result
New Jersey 5 Tampa Bay 4
Sunday's results
Chicago 3 San Jose 2 (OT)
N.Y. Rangers 6 Florida 1
Saturday's results
Calgary 3 Edmonton 0
Montreal 2 New Jersey 1
Vancouver 4 Ottawa 1
Boston 5 Columbus 3
Dallas 2 Los Angeles 1
Detroit 7 Winnipeg 1
Minnesota 4 Phoenix 1
Nashville 3 Anaheim 2
N.Y. Rangers 4 Buffalo 1
Philadelphia 5 Tampa Bay 2
Pittsburgh 6 N.Y. Islanders 3
St. Louis 1 San Jose 0
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Los Angeles at Boston, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Carolina at **Toronto**, 7 p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
San Jose at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Boston at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Giroux, Pha	16	23	39
Kessel, Tor	18	18	36
D.Sedin, Vcr	12	22	34
Stamkos, TB	18	15	33
Lupul, Tor	13	20	33
H.Sedin, Vcr	8	25	33
Toews, Chi	17	15	32
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	13	19	32
Backstrom, Wash	11	21	32
Sharp, Chi	16	15	31
Versteeg, Fla	13	18	31
Ma.Hossa, Chi	12	19	31
Eberle, Edm	11	20	31
Pominville, Buf	10	21	31
P.Kane, Chi	8	23	31
Fleischmann, Fla	12	18	30
Weiss, Fla	11	19	30
Vanek, Buf	14	15	29
Selanne, Ana	9	20	29
Neal, Pgh	17	11	28
Franzen, Det	13	15	28
Kopitar, LA	10	18	28
Malkin, Pgh	10	18	28
Spezza, Ott	9	19	28
Datsyuk, Det	8	20	28
Hartnell, Pha	14	12	26
Seguin, Bos	13	13	26
Smyth, Edm	12	14	26
M.Koivu, Minn	7	19	26
Gaborik, NYR	15	10	25
Vrbata, Phx	14	11	25
B.Richards, NYR	11	14	25
Filpula, Det	10	15	25
Ra.Whitney, Phx	10	15	25
Karlsson, Ott	2	23	25
Michalek, Ott	18	6	24
E.Kane, Wpg	15	9	24
Perry, Ana	12	12	24
Skinner, Car	12	12	24
Jagr, Pha	10	14	24
Elias, NJ	9	15	24
Benn, Dal	7	17	24
Plekanec, Mtl	6	18	24
B.Campbell, Fla	2	22	24
Lucic, Bos	10	13	23
Briere, Pha	9	14	23
Tavares, NYI	9	14	23
Henrique, NJ	7	16	23
Prospal, Clb	7	16	23
J.Thornton, SJ	5	18	23
Parenteau, NYI	4	19	23
Moulson, NYI	14	8	22
Eriksson, Dal	10	12	22
Dupuis, Pgh	9	13	22
Parise, NJ	9	13	22
St. Louis, TB	9	13	22
C.Smith, Nash	8	14	22
Getzlaf, Ana	6	16	22
M.Bergeron, TB	3	19	22
Callahan, NYR	12	9	21
Pavelski, SJ	12	9	21
Iginla, Cal	11	10	21
Lecavalier, TB	11	10	21

GOLF

WORLD RANKING

Through Dec. 11

1. Luke Donald	ENG	10.29
2. Rory McIlroy	NIR	8.00
3. Lee Westwood	ENG	7.81
4. Martin Kaymer	GER	6.78
5. Adam Scott	AUS	5.66
6. Steve Stricker	USA	5.56
7. Dustin Johnson	USA	5.48
8. Jason Day	AUS	5.23
9. Webb Simpson	USA	5.15
10. Matt Kuchar	USA	4.90
11. Charl Schwartzel	SAF	4.88
12. Nick Watney	USA	4.86
13. Graeme McDowell	NIR	4.72
14. Phil Mickelson	USA	4.68
15. K.J. Choi	KOR	4.46
16. Sergio Garcia	ESP	4.01
17. Justin Rose	ENG	3.99
18. Hunter Mahan	USA	3.90
19. Paul Casey	ENG	3.87
20. Bubba Watson	USA	3.83
21. Alvaro Quiros	ESP	3.79
22. Tiger Woods	USA	3.69
23. Robert Karlsson	SWE	3.68
24. Kyung-Tae Kim	KOR	3.62
25. David Toms	USA	3.61
26. Bill Haas	USA	3.53
27. Bo Van Pelt	USA	3.48
28. Ian Poulter	ENG	3.46
29. Rickie Fowler	USA	3.35
30. Keegan Bradley	USA	3.34
31. Sang-Moon Bae	KOR	3.33
32. Jason Dufner	USA	3.31
33. Simon Dyson	ENG	3.30
34. Anders Hansen	DEN	3.21
35. Zach Johnson	USA	3.21
36. Thomas Bjorn	DEN	3.20
37. Brandt Snedeker	USA	3.19
38. Louis Oosthuizen	SAF	3.18
39. Francesco Molinari	ITA	3.17
40. Fredrik Jacobson	SWE	3.15
41. Peter Hanson	SWE	3.06
42. Geoff Ogilvy	AUS	3.04
43. Miguel Angel Jimenez	ESP	2.98
44. Y.E. Yang	KOR	2.94
45. John Senden	AUS	2.92
46. Darren Clarke	NIR	2.89
47. Martin Laird	SCO	2.87
48. Jim Furyk	USA	2.87
49. Aaron Baddeley	AUS	2.87
50. Ryo Ishikawa	JPN	2.81

NFL

WEEK 14

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	396	274
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	327	270
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	288	341
Miami	4	9	0	.308	256	246

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	10	3	0	.769	330	208
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	266	251
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	193	252
Indianapolis	0	13	0	.000	184	382

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	320	202
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	285	270
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	178	254

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	5	0	.615	269	302
Oakland	7	6	0	.538	290	354
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	173	305

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	324	349
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	297	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	229	290

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	415	286
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	300	267
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	313	355
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	232	370

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	0	0	1.000	466	278
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	367	305
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	301	255
Minnesota	2	11	0	.154	274	364

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	307	182
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	253	288
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	216	246
St. Louis	2	10	0	.167	140	296

x-clinched playoff spot; **y**-clinched division
Last night's result
St. Louis at Seattle
Sunday's results
New Orleans 22 Tennessee 17
Baltimore 24 Indianapolis 10
N.Y. Jets 37 Kansas City 10
Detroit 34 Minnesota 28
Houston 20 Cincinnati 19
Jacksonville 41 Tampa Bay 14
Atlanta 31 Carolina 23
Philadelphia 26 Miami 10
New England 34 Washington 27
Arizona 21 San Francisco 19
Denver 13 Chicago 10 (OT)
San Diego 37 Buffalo 10
Green Bay 46 Oakland 16
N.Y. Giants 37 Dallas 34
Thursday's result
Pittsburgh 14 Cleveland 3

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man City	15	12	2	1	49	15	38
Man United	15	11	3	1	35	14	36
Tottenham	14	10	1	3	30	18	31
Chelsea	15	10	1	4	33	18	31
Arsenal	15	9	2	4	31	23	29
Liverpool	15	7	5	3	18	13	26
Newcastle	15	7	5	3	21	19	26
Stoke	15	6	3	6	16	24	21
Aston Villa	15	4	7	4	18	19	19
Norwich	15	5	4	6	24	28	19
Swansea	15	4	5	6	16	20	17
Everton	14	5	1	8	15	18	16
QPR	15	4	4	7	15	26	16
Fulham	15	3	6	6	16	18	15
West Brom	15	4	3	8	14	23	15
Sunderland	15	3	5	7	18	18	14
Wolverhampton	15	4	2	9	16	28	14
Wigan	15	3	3	9	14	29	12
Blackburn	15	2	4	9	22	34	10
Bolton	15	3	0	12	20	36	9

Yesterday's result
Chelsea 2 Manchester City 1
Sunday's result
Stoke 2 Tottenham 1
Sunderland 2 Blackburn 1
Saturday's results
Arsenal 1 Everton 0
Bolton 1 Aston Villa 2
Liverpool 1 Queens Park Rangers 0
Manchester United 4 Wolverhampton 1
Norwich 4 Newcastle 2
Swansea 2 Fulham 0
West Bromwich Albion 1 Wigan 2

ITALY

SERIE A

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Juventus	14	8	6	0	25	11	30
Udinese	14	9	3	2	18	7	30
AC Milan	14	8	4	2	31	16	28
Lazio	14	8	4	2	22	11	28
Napoli	14	5	6	3	22	14	21
Palermo	14	6	2	6	16	16	20
Genoa	13	5	3	5	16	16	18
Cagliari	14	4	6	4	12	13	18
Roma	14	5	3	6	16	18	18
Catania	14	4	6	4	15	20	18
Inter Milan	13	5	2	6	16	18	17
Parma	14	5	1	8	15	20	17
x-Atalanta	14	5	7	2	17	16	16
Fiorentina	14	4	5	5	13	13	16
Chievo Verona	14	4	4	6	11	18	16
Bologna	14	4	3	7	13	20	15
Siena	14	3	5	6	14	14	14
Cesena	14	3	3	8	7	15	12
Novara	14	2	5	7	14	25	11
Lecce	14	2	2	10	13	26	8

x — penalized six points in betting scandal.
Yesterday's results
Roma 1 Juventus 1
Sunday's results
Atalanta 1 Catania 1
Bologna 2 AC Milan 2
Cagliari 0 Parma 0
Novara 1 Napoli 1
Udinese 2 Chievo Verona 1
Saturday's results
Inter Milan 2 Fiorentina 0
Lecce 2 Lazio 3
Palermo 0 Cesena 1
Siena 0 Genoa 2
Today's game
Inter Milan at Genoa

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT TIGERS—Failed to offer a contract to 2B Will Rhymes, making him a free agent.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS—Agreed to terms with RHP Jerome Williams on a one-year contract.
MINNESOTA TWINS—Sent SS Pedro Florimon outright to Rochester (IL). Named Gene Glynn manager and Tom Brunansky coach for Rochester; Stu Cliburn pitching coach and Rudy Hernandez coach for New Britain (EL); and Ivan Arteaga pitching coach of Elizabethton (Appalachian).
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Claimed RHP Jim Hoey off waivers from Minnesota. Sent C Brian Jeroloman and RHP Drew Carpenter outright to Las Vegas (PCL). Designated RHP Jesse Chavez for assignment.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

COLORADO ROCKIES—Agreed to terms with C Ramon Hernandez on a two-year contract.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with SS Alex Gonzalez on a one-year contract.
NEW YORK METS—Claimed RHP Jeremy Hefner off waivers from Pittsburgh. Signed LHP Garrett Olson and C Lucas May to minor league contracts.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Traded OF Ben Francisco to Toronto for LHP Frank Gailey.
American Association
LINCOLN SALTDOGS—Signed LHP Thomas Palica.

NBA

CHICAGO BULLS—Re-signed F Brian Scalabrine.
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Re-signed G Anthony Parker. Waived forward J.P. Prince.
DALLAS MAVERICKS—Re-signed F Brian Cardinal.
DETROIT PISTONS—Waived G Richard Hamilton.
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES—Signed F Derrick Williams.
TORONTO RAPTORS—Agreed to terms with G Anthony Carter.

NFL

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Fired coach Todd Haley. Named Romeo Crennel interim coach.
MIAMI DOLPHINS—Fired coach Tony Sparano. Named Todd Bowles interim coach.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Placed WR Stephen Burton on injured reserve. Signed WR Emmanuel Arceneaux from the practice squad.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Placed LB Jacob Cutrera and DT John McCargo on injured reserve. Signed DT Frank Okam from the practice squad. Released RB Nic Grigsby from the practice squad.

CFL

TORONTO ARGONAUTS—Acquired QB Ricky Ray from Edmonton for QB Steven Jyles, K Grant Shaw and a 2012 first-round draft pick.

NHL

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Assigned F Ben Smith to Rockford (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Activated RW Cam Janssen from injured reserve. Placed D Anton Volchenkov on injured reserve.
NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Sent F Micheal Haley to Bridgeport (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Agreed to terms with F Antti Miettinen on a two-year contract. Recalled D Evan Oberg from Norfolk (AHL).

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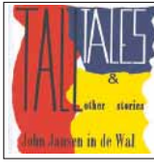

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I, Deven Snehal Dikshit born on 26 of Sept. 1969, residing at my current address 1003 – 600 Lolita Gardens, Mississauga, ON – L5A 3K8, having permanent address 7/A-18,4th Floor, Sonawala Building, Tardeo, Mumbai – 400 007, India shall henceforth be known as **Deven Snehal Dixit.**

I, Jignasa Deven Dikshit born on 2nd March, 1973 residing at my current address 1003 – 600 Lolita Gardens, Mississauga, ON – L5A 3K8, having permanent address 7/A-18,4th Floor, Sonawala Building, Tardeo, Mumbai – 400 007, India shall henceforth be known as **Jignasa Deven Dixit.**

I, Dharitri Deven Dikshit born on 18th November, 2001 residing at my current address 1003 – 600 Lolita Gardens, Mississauga, ON – L5A 3K8, having permanent address 7/A-18,4th Floor, Sonawala Building, Tardeo, Mumbai – 400 007, India shall henceforth be known as **Dharitri Deven Dixit.**

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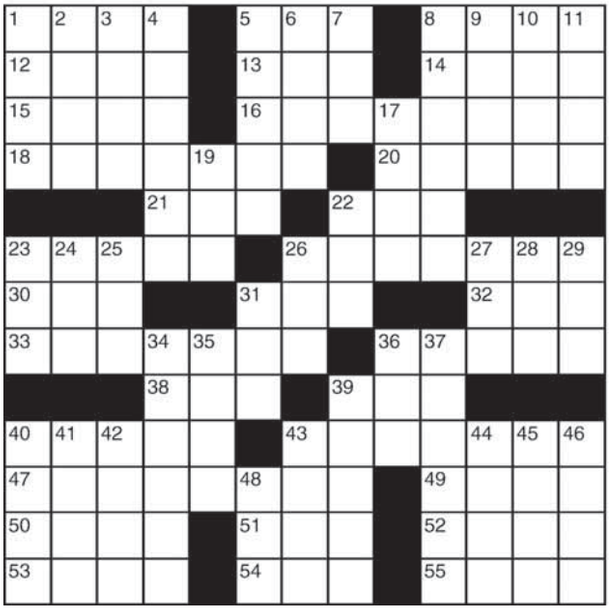
Crossword



Across
1 Double agent
5 Sis' sib
8 Havana's country
12 Pre-diploma hurdle
13 Scarlet
14 October birthstone
15 Withered
16 Firewood supports
18 Humanlike robot
20 Apartment-complex unit
21 Pistol
22 Half-score
23 Rags-to-riches author
26 Moderately slow in music
30 Arthur or Lillie
31 Pismire
32 Physicist Georg
33 Pyrenees principality
36 Refuges
38 Chinese cook's vessel
39 Matterhorn, e.g.
40 Prince William's mother
43 Massachusetts city
47 Pamela or Loni
49 Strong wind
50 Use a teaspoon
51 Blackbird
52 Gaelic
53 Red — (candy)
54 Tiny
55 Kept watch on

Down
1 Small plateau
2 Yoked team
3 Fat
4 Come out
5 Gray matter
6 Tear
7 Peculiar
8 Ring around the sun
9 "Once — a time"
10 Musical combo
11 As well
17 On the rocks
19 "— Town"
22 Explosive letters
23 Lawyers' org.
24 Cariou of Broadway
25 Wander about
26 Literary collection
27 Ph. bk. info
28 Winnie — Pooh
29 Type measures
31 Noah's boat
34 Deed holders
35 Bellow
36 On in years
37 Farthest point in an orbit
39 "Tomorrow" tyke
40 Morse morsel
41 Grooving on
42 Mine entrance
43 Top-notch
44 Change
45 Otherwise
46 Saxophone need
48 Witnessed

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	L	A	V		P	R	Y		O	H	M	S
L	A	C	E		O	N	E		B	O	I	L
O	V	E	N		P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E
B	A	D	E	G	G		I	N	R	O	A	D
			E	R	R	S		N	O	R		
P	A	T	R	I	O	T	S		N	E	I	L
U	G	H		M	U	R	A	L		E	W	E
N	O	R	M		P	A	T	E	R	S	O	N
		E	A	R		P	U	C	E			
S	T	A	T	U	E		R	H	E	S	U	S
P	A	T	T	E	R	E	D		F	I	R	E
A	L	E	E		A	L	A		E	D	G	E
M	E	N	D		S	K	Y		R	E	E	K

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

	5		7	6	9		1	
1								9
		7				8		
6	4		5		8		7	1
				9				
9	2		3		1		8	4
		4				1		
7								2
	8		2	1	3		6	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

4	6	1	3	9	8	5	2	7
3	8	7	5	4	2	1	9	6
5	2	9	1	7	6	3	8	4
6	3	8	7	2	9	4	1	5
2	7	4	6	1	5	9	3	8
1	9	5	4	8	3	6	7	2
8	1	2	9	6	4	7	5	3
7	5	6	8	3	1	2	4	9
9	4	3	2	5	7	8	6	1

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

To Peaches
Hello — the Peaches I have written to (in vain it seems) probably wouldn't address as "Howdie". Also, he would likely not contact me at all, as is angry & it's complicated. Peaches, AKA Petal. I'm done trying anyway. Sorry for any confusion.
FROM ME

Oi!
Jeez you're cute! I honestly can't say that enough times. Someday I'll be the one planting kisses on those adorable cheeks.
FROM CAPTAIN

Matty
Where have you been? I haven't seen you for 3 days now. I miss seeing your face. I hope to see you tomorrow.
FROM R

Today
5°/1°
Variable
Wednesday
6°/3°
Showers
40%
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Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 The truth must be told and you are the one who must do the telling.
♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Your attitude will harden today and you will refuse to make the changes that others demand.
♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Spell out what it is you are planning to do over the next few days and make sure everyone knows that you are serious about your ambitions.
♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Let certain people know that you will no longer do their bidding.
♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You're allowed to change your mind, and you're allowed to change your ambitions too.
♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 It will be easier for you to explain what you have been up to in recent weeks.
♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You will find it ridiculously easy to get people to do what you desire today.
♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The best way to win others round to your big idea is to come up with so many facts and figures that they simply cannot deny that you know what you are talking about.
♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It's time to get serious about something you have been putting off for weeks or months.
♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Don't let worries and fears get the better of you.
♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you cannot handle something alone, ask for assistance.
♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You will find it quite easy to get your message across to employers and other important people today.
SALLY BROMPTON

PETR DAVID JOSEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caption contest

SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS/AP

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